The Long Island FISHERMAN

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May 3rd, 1 lume 14, Number 18 ★ *14th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY—CENTS

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CK ISLAND WEEKEND

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

Volume 14, Number 18 **May 3rd, 1979**

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MAY TIDERUNNERS

About the Cover—

A thin strip of squid resulted in this fine porgy being unhooked by Bruce Sucher. See "Peconic Bay Smorgasbord" on page 22 of this issue.

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Scott Simons — MANAGING EDITOR
Dr. Wm. A. Muller — EDITOR
Al Ristori — CONSERVATION EDITOR
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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December, by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge St., P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963. Telephone: (516) 725-4200. Second Class Postage is paid at Sag Harbor, N.Y. $.50 cents per copy, back issues $.65 per copy. *Subscriptions:* One-Year, 50 Issues—$11; Two-Years, 100 Issues—$19; Three-Years, 150 Issues—$27. Photographs and written contributions must be accompanied by a written request and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All consideration will be given these requests; however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both the old and the new addresses. Please allow two weeks for the address change to be made. USPS-522-160

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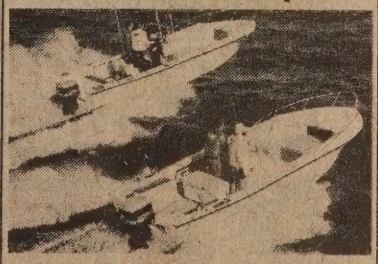

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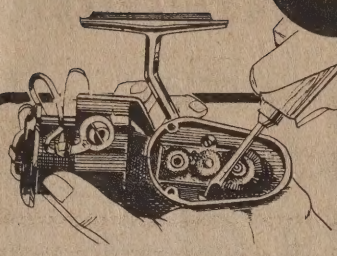

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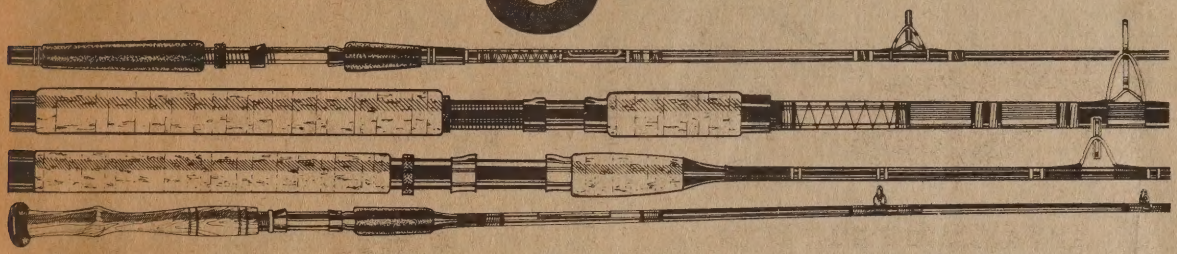

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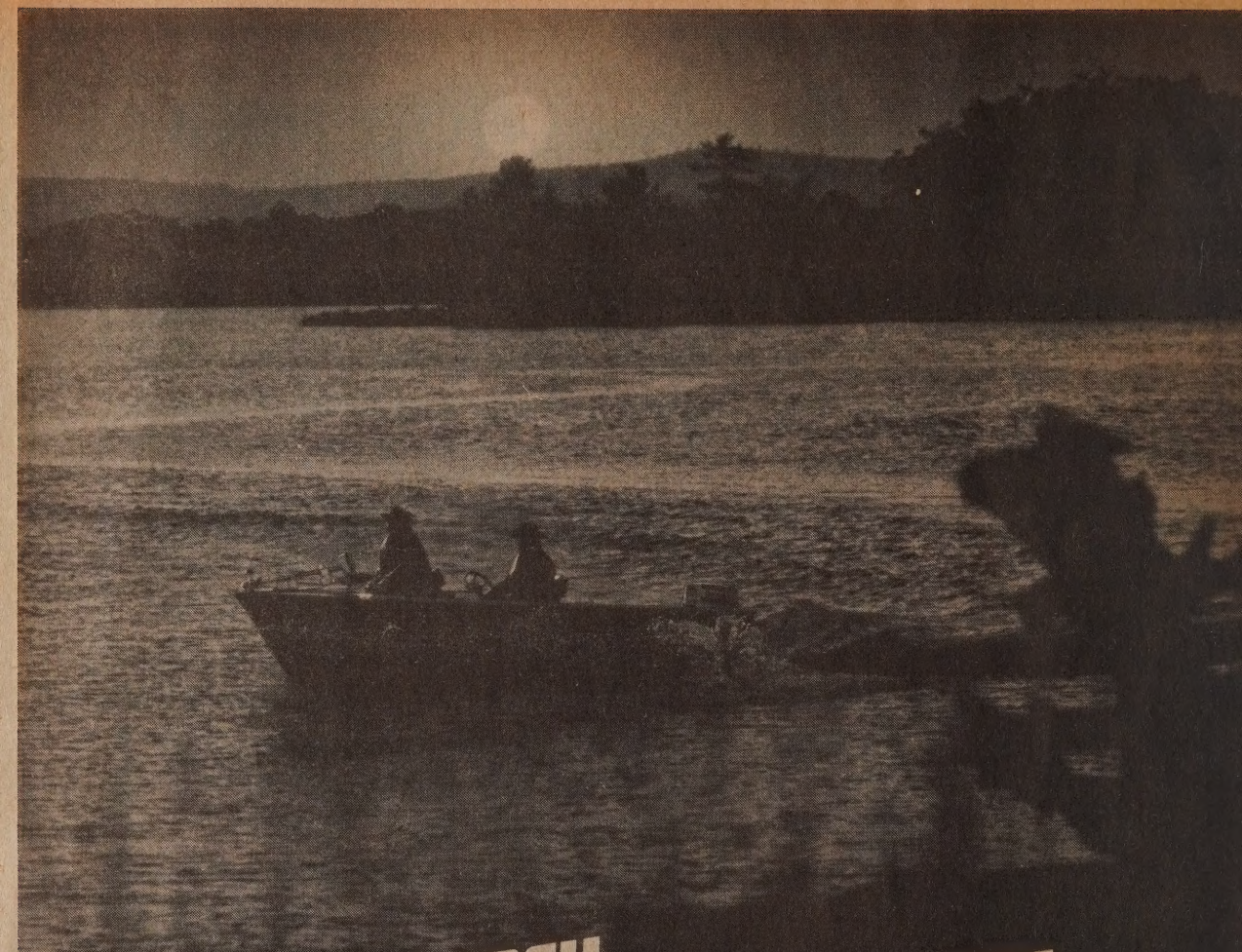

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Pass It On...

LORAN C SEMINIAR SET FOR STAMFORD ON MAY 5

A Marine Electronics Navigation Seminar, featuring Loran C will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Stamford, Ct., on Saturday, May 5. Commander Francis W. Mooney, Chief of the US Coast Guard's Loran C branch will be the group leader of the seminar which is open to the public.

Boat people who are interested in attending are invited to sit in on any one of three identical two-hour sessions. They will be held from 9AM to 11AM; from 11AM to 1PM; and from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. To reserve a place at one of the sessions, call 203-323-1163.

The Seminar, entitled "Loran '79" will show how Loran works, and feature experts showing what it can do for the individual boater. The latest equipment will also be on hand and is to include both Loran C and satellite navigator gear.

Following short, illustrated presentations by Cdr. Mooney and Mr. Graham, there will be informal discussions and questions. A comprehensive kit of Loran C material will be given to all attendees.

Loran '79 is a presentation of Electra Yacht, Inc., in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard. There is no charge for admission to one of the three sessions, but because space is limited at the Stamford Marriott, reservations are a must for the May 5 event.

N.Y. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL SUPPORTS LEGISLATION PROHIBITING DRAGGING IN GREAT SOUTH BAY

In a sharply-worded letter to Senator Fred J. Eckert and Assemblyman Maurice D. Hinchley, Jr., Chairman of the New York State Senate and Assembly Committees on Conservation and Recreation, the New York Sportfishing Council demanded that beam trawling and similar nettings be banned in the Great South Bay.

In responding to the Captree Boatmen's Association's recent request for support, George Gerhold, President, pointed out that the Bay has become an increasingly less productive source of both food and fishing pleasure for hundreds of thousands of users as a result of gill netting of weakfish and pollution. He pointed out that social conflict would rise dramatically if dragging for flounder and fluke were added to the list of assaults on the integrity of the fishery. He requested that our legislators protect the interests of the thousands of taxpayers and voters who use the Great South Bay by stopping the dragging immediately.

The New York Sportfishing Coun-

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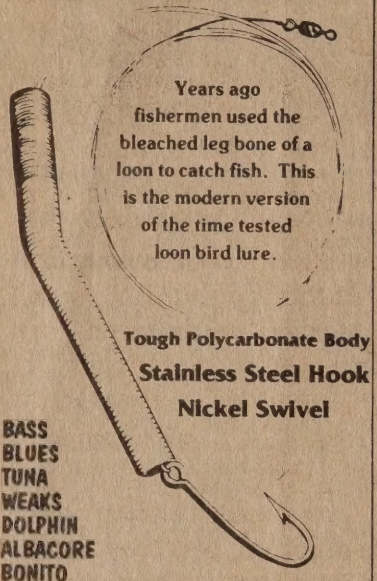

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cil, which recently introduced legislation to ban gill netting in the Great South Bay during May, requests that all concerned fishermen write their legislators in support of that legislation (Bills S-2583 and A-3296) and also in support of the ban on dragging.

CLUB NEWS

MORICHES ANGLERS INC.

The Moriches Anglers Club, Inc., announces the results of its 1978 intra-club fishing competition.

Club members accumulate points by weighing in fish in 31 eligible categories. Only the largest fish caught per angler in each species is counted for points. Eligible types of fish range from flounder to blue marlin. The angler of the year is the fisherman who accumulates the greatest number of points for the year.

Angler of the Year—Chuck Perrone, 10,517; 2nd Place—Artie Rumph, 9,444 and 3rd Place—Ken Malone, 5,242.

Individual awards were won by the following men: Codfish—Artie Rumph, 46.0; bluefish—Paul Trovitch, 17.7; striped bass—Chuck Perrone, 36.14; fluke—Artie Rumph, 10.6; flounder—Mike Contessa, 3.7; bluefin tuna—Mike Piltin, 121.0; weakfish—Ken Malone, 10.6, and mako shark—Chuck Perrone, 325.0

5TH ANNUAL L.I. WEAKFISH TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 19TH.

The South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club will hold its 5th Annual L.I. Weakfish Tournament this year on May 19. This year instead of a $500 first prize, the $500 plus will be divided, with $300 going for first place; $150 second place, and $50 for third place winner, plus $10 for the biggest fish weighed in at the offical weigh-in station.

Entry fee for the tournament is $3 per angler. Tickets and fliers with additional information may be obtained at the following bait and tackle stores:

C. Altenkirch, Hampton Bays.
American Sportsman, Sayville
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Babylon Fishing Station, Babylon
Babylon Sports Center, Babylon
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Frank & Dick's, State Boat Channel
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Islip Marine, Islip
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Niel's Bait Shop, Bay Shore Marina
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Port of Egypt, Southold
Sea Isle Sports Center, Freeport
Smokey's Bait & Tackle, Bay Shore
So. Bay Fishing, W. Sayville
Starfish Marine, East Islip
State Channel Marina, State Boat Channel
The Store, Oak Beach
Youngs Fishing Station, Sayville

Or by calling Kurt Roeloffs at (516) 475-1424.

The tournament will begin at 4AM and all fish must be at the weigh-in station by 6PM. The contest is open to all ages and may be fished in any L.I. waters. Club members and families are not allowed to fish this contest.

ATLANTIC ANGLERS

The Atlantic Anglers, a group of dedicated Bay and offshore fishermen are seeking a few new members. Programs for the coming year include intra-club tournaments for weaks, fluke, bass and bluefish. In addition, the Club will enter the Bay Shore Mako Tournament, the Amityville Chopper Roundup and inter-club tournaments for flounder, fluke and weakfish. Finally, charters have been arranged for Montauk cod and Peconic night weaks.

Anyone interested in joining a really active group of fishermen should contact Jim Nolan at 731-8528 for more information.

CHUM LINES

ONORATO SPEAKS ON SELLING BASS

Since much has been written since Scott Simons wrote the editorial on "to sell or not to sell," I would like to bring out a few additional points. Scott is right on when he says rod and reel fishermen don't influence a total overall fishery to any great degree. They may affect local fish populations temporarily, but not the basic stocks. It seems fashionable for many people to criticize those who catch large numbers of striped bass and label them unsportsman-like, etc.; little do they realize what goes into successful striped bass fishing. First, many long, hard years are needed to learn and study both the techniques and habits of catching this fish. The days of going out a few times and catching are over. Virtually every waking hour must be devoted to the fish; the fish will be sought in all types of weather, and all times of the year. Sacrifices must be made, and you must damn near sell your soul. No nets, traps, or spear guns are used, but only the

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rod and reel. Many criticize the use of wire as unsportsmanlike, but I assure you, it takes great skill to catch the fish on wire line—only 10 out of 100 will master its use. Those who criticize it, don't know how to use it. Total enjoyment for me is catching great fish on big plugs at night, and many, many hard hours are put into it. So for those odd fellows like myself who live by this fish, we resent the thought of unsportsmanship. Let some of those who criticize put themselves in our shoes for a few nights, and they will see what it's all about. *Ron Onorato.*

WANTS TO JOIN A FISHING CLUB

I am SIXTEEN-years-old and have been an active fisherman in New York City for over six years. I am also a dedicated reader of your magazine. This year I would like to join a local fishing club which makes several out-of-city fishing trips. I like to join one before the season starts. I have had a hard time finding a saltwater organization near my home since I live on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. I would appreciate it if you would send me a list of fishing clubs that are close to where I live; it could be out of the borough as long as the train ride is an hour or less. Clubs which allow and have members of my age and treat us teenagers who are skilled fishermen with the same respect as the older members would be great. Since I don't know which club fits me the best, place a check next to the organization which you think will suit me well. *Robert Tang, 14 Monroe St., New York, NY 10002.*

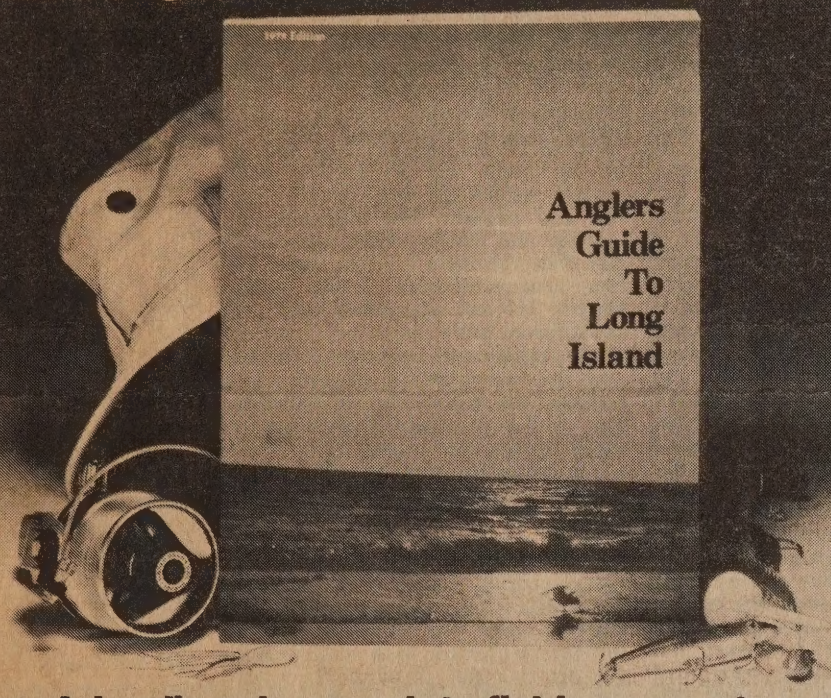
*****

Recently retired and am interested in a fishing and hunting club. It was suggested that I join a club near my neighborhood.

Would you be kind enough to please furnish me the names and addresses of clubs near Garden City-Franklin Square area. *Hugo Dirks, Jr., 81 Cambridge Ave., Garden City, NY 11530.*

As a matter of policy we don't publish the names and addresses of fishing clubs because many have closed memberships and are not looking for new members. We are printing your requests so that interested clubs may contact you directly. Scott S.

Introducing
The Angler's Guide To Long Island



Long Island's only complete fishing encyclopedia.

FACTS and INFORMATION

The Angler's Guide to Long Island has all the facts and information you'll ever need for fishing on Long Island. It contains information on all the Government agencies involved in fishing, their laws, regulations and services. It will keep you from being caught with the wrong fish, in the wrong place, at the wrong time. A section devoted to Marine radio communications keeps you in touch with your fellow fishermen and weather reports. The chapters on freshwater and saltwater fishing, tell you all you need to know about what to look for and the tactics and tackle to bring it in. There's also a section on poisonous and harmful species that tells you what not to look for and what to do if you find one or it finds you. The section on shellfish and crustaceans gives you a complete decsription of what's to be found in Long Island waters.

DIRECTORIES

The directory section literally covers the waterfront with over one thousand listings of parks, (providing fishing), private charter boats, open fishing boats, fishing stations, bait and tackle shops, marine service docks and launching ramps. This section is an invaluable guide to the services you need when and where you need them. If your willing to clean and cook your catch, then try some of our delicious and outlandish receipes. If not, try one of the many fine dockside dining establishments listed.

CHARTS, MAPS, TABLES

A complete set of fishing ground maps will show you where the fish are and serve as an invaluable reference tool in planning your next fishing trip. There's a glossary of terms and an illustrated section on knot tying that will have you sounding like and looking like an old salt in no time. Using all the information contained in The Angler's Guide to Long Island you might very well hook the big one, so we've included a set of New York and IGFA record forms. Plus a full color 12" x 27" suitable for framing, illustration of **LONG ISLAND SALTWATER SPORT FISH**, to identify your catch. Get hooked on some of the best fishing of your life with the Angler's Guide to Long Island and order several copies for yourself, or as gifts for your friends and fishing partners.

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE
TABLE LURES
with Helen Groll

FLOUNDER WITH ORIENTAL FLAIR

With flounder season upon us, it's time to think of new ways to prepare this tasty fish and so we look to the East for some unusual recipes. Flounder is the perfect fish choice for any Chinese recipe because of its delicate flavor and the lack of bones in the fillets. By the way, when you fillet your flounder, don't discard the trimmings. Since flounder is a non-oily and delicately flavored fish, the trimmings make one of the best fish stocks. It's also nice to know, if you have really good luck in your angling efforts, that flounder freezes very well. To save freezer space and to make the final preparation of your fish more convenient, fillet your fish before freezing them. When you're ready to cook the fillets, thaw them overnight in the refrigerator. Thawing at room temperature will cause a loss of moisture that will affect the flavor of the finished dish.

Most local Chinese restaurants don't serve many dishes made with fish but that's really because, in the past, anyway, Americans were not prone to try anything new and different. And that's really too bad because the Chinese have a flair for fish cookery and it's worthwhile to explore some of their cooking techniques for sea fresh treasures. If you have trouble obtaining some of the Oriental ingredients in the following recipes, you can make do with some more familiar substitutes. Black beans, for instance, since they are very salty are used as a seasoning agent, and, if you can't get them you can add more soy or salt to the recipe. Hoi Sin Sauce can be replaced by ketchup, which has a different—but similar—flavor and you could use corn or peanut oil instead of sesame oil. One item that cannot be substituted, though, is fresh ginger. If you can't find a produce market that carries it, do not try to use powdered ginger instead since this spice has a very different flavor. It's worth a trip to Chinatown to pick up some of these seasonings to keep on hand in the cupboard. Most of them keep for a long time and a little goes a long way. Oyster Sauce, for instance, will keep for months. It has a rich, salty and winey flavor that will add a great taste to any dish. If you buy fresh ginger root, keep it in the freezer and just peel off a slice when you need it. It will stay perfectly fresh this way for up to six months.

This first recipe has a name that's descriptive of its colorful ingredients and exotic as it sounds, is quite easy to prepare.

Flounder Fillet in Jade and Pearls

First prepare the fish by dusting it with cornstarch and frying it in 1/2" oil until it's brown and crispy. This step may be done ahead of time and you can drain the fish on paper toweling and refrigerate it until 30 minutes before serving time. Use 1 lb. of fillets, cut in serving size pieces; season as they brown with salt and pepper. The next step is making the sauce. First, combine and then set aside: 1 tsp. sugar, 1 tsp. msg (optional), 1 tbl. cornstarch, 1/4 cup soy sauce and 1/4 cup chicken broth.

Next prepare the vegetables. Wash and dry 16 small mushrooms and remove the stems to use another day. If the caps are large, quarter them. Drain and mince one small can of pimentos and thaw a package of snow peas or regular peas. Also have ready: 1 small slice of ginger, 1 clove of garlic and 1 can of drained bamboo shoots. Thirty minutes or so before you're ready to eat, reheat the fish in a low heat oven and then start to cook the sauce. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a skillet until it's hot, but not smoking, then add the minced ginger and garlic. Stir fry for a minute or so with 1/2 tsp. salt. Now add the mushrooms, pimentos, and peas or snow peas. Stir fry for 2 minutes over high heat and then add the bamboo shoots and liquid mixture. Simmer, while stirring, until the sauce is thickened and clear and then pour the hot sauce over the warm fillets and serve immediately.

Steamed Sea Fresh Treasure

This recipe is so basic that it brings out all the flavor of the fish, but adds an extra zing with its zesty sauce.

Split and clean the fish, but leave the heads and tails on as this will help them to remain moist and will add to the flavor of the sauce. Make 1/4" deep diagonal slashes on both sides of each fish and rub them with a mixture of 6 tablespoons soy sauce, a dash of pepper and 2 tablespoons Hoi Sin sauce or ketchup. Get out a large kettle with a rack and a plate (heat-proof, of course) large enough to hold the fish in a single layer. Add water to the bottom of the kettle to the level just below the rack, then place the plate upon the rack. Cover the pot with a snug lid and bring the water to a boil and then lower it to a simmer. Steam cook the fish for about 25 minutes, making sure the water in the bottom of the pot doesn't boil away. When the fish is almost done, heat 3 tablespoons oil (sesame oil, if you have it) in a skillet and quickly stir fry 2 chopped scallions and 1 clove of minced garlic for 2 or 3 minutes. Pour this hot oil mixture over the fish and serve at once.

Sweet and Sour Crispy Flounder

This recipe is as simple to prepare as Jade and Pearls, but the sauce has a sweetly-tart flavor.

Prepare 1 lb. of flounder fillets as in the recipe for Jade and Pearls and then either keep them warm or set them in the Fridge till 30 minutes prior to serving time. To make the sauce, combine the following items in a saucepan: 2 thinly sliced carrots, 3 scallions, cut in 1" lengths, 2 slices of canned pineapple, cut in bite-sized pieces, 1/2 cup white vinegar, 1/2 cup sugar, the juice from the pineapple and enough water to make 1/2 cup and salt or soy sauce to taste. Bring these ingredients to a boil and simmer them for 10 minutes; then add 1 medium-sized green pepper, seeded and cut in 1" squares. Simmer for another 3 or 4 minutes and then thicken the sauce by stirring in 1 tablespoon of cornstarch that has been dissolved in 2 tablespoons of water. Pour the hot sauce over the warm fillets and serve immediately.

Flounder "Mailgrams"

The Chinese love to serve small morsels of food that have been deep-fried in paper packages. Try these envelopes for a tasty conversation piece at your next party.

Use a pound of flounder fillet and cut each piece lengthwise in two and then crosswise. Put the pieces in a bowl and sprinkle them with 1 tsp. salt and 2 tablespoons sherry. Have ready 1/4 lb. of finely minced ham, 24 - 6" squares of waxed paper, 2 tablespoons of oil (sesame oil if possible), 6 thin slices of peeled ginger and 3 large scallions cut in 1" shreds. Place a square of waxed paper with one point facing you and then brush it with some of the oil. Add a piece of fillet, a bit of ham, a slice of ginger and some of the scallions. Now fold up the envelope according to the illustration, making sure that it's neat and tight so it won't come apart when you fry it. When you have finished making all the envelopes, you may fry them right away or put them in the Fridge until 30 minutes before you're ready to cook them.

Heat 3 cups of oil in a deep fryer to 375° and add one quarter of the packages. Deep fry them for about 3 minutes, gently turning them with a slotted spoon once or twice. Drain the envelopes on paper toweling and fry the rest of them. Then serve them with a garnish of sliced

radishes.

Soup with Fish Dumplings

An interesting variation of "Gefilte fish" or French, "Quenelles," these savory dumplings have a unique taste and texture. For the soup base, you may use homemade or canned chicken broth. If you use canned broth, you can improve its flavor by simmering it first with some pork bones and a bit of soy sauce.

To make the dumplings: place 1 tablespoon of chopped ginger, 1 scallion and 1/4 cup water in your blender. Blend on high speed for a minute and then strain the resulting liquid. Rinse out the blender's container and then use it to puree 1/4 lb. of flounder fillet cubes along with 5 tablespoons water; 1 tablespoon sherry and the white of one egg. Add 1 tablespoon of the ginger-scallion liquid and stir in one tablespoon cornstarch and 1 tablespoon lard or bacon fat. Season the fish paste with 1/2 tsp. salt and let it sit in the Fridge for a half hour or so. When you're ready to serve the soup, get out a kettle and fill it with cold water and have your soup stock in another pot, ready to be heated. Now form the fish mixture into ping-pong sized balls and drop them into the cold water. When all the balls have been formed, place the kettle on the stove and slowly bring the water to a boil, then lower the flame so the water is just barely simmering. When the balls float to the surface of the water, they're done. Carefully scoop them out and either place them in the waiting broth or store them in the refrigerator until dinner time. When you're ready to serve the soup, heat the broth with the dumpling in it till piping hot. Then garnish each bowlfull with a few snips of scallion or a bit of shredded lettuce.

Puff Fried Flounder with Fruit Sauce

This is our favorite fried fish recipe and flounder is the perfect fish to make it with. The fruit sauce may seem like a strange partner for a fish dish, but it has a sweet-tartness that sets off the richness of the crispy fish to perfection. You can prepare the sauce, make the batter, and cut up the fillets ahead of time. But, for this recipe, frying must be a last minute task to preserve the "Crunch" of the fish pieces.

Make the batter by combining 1½ cups flour with 1 tablespoon baking powder and 1/2 tsp. salt. When the dough starts to pull away from the side of the bowl, gradually add 1/2 cup of vegetable oil. The batter should have the consistency of a fairly thick pancake mixture. Cut the fish in 4" pieces and dry the pieces with paper toweling. Have 5 cups of oil ready in a deep fryer. To make the fruit sauce combine the following: 1/2 cup orange marmalade, 1/4 cup soy sauce, 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1 clove of peeled and minced garlic and a small piece of peeled and minced ginger. The above are general proportions and since some like it sweet and some like it tart, you may adjust according to taste. Heat the oil in the deep fryer to 350° and you can test the temperature by dropping in a small ball of dough. If the oil is hot enough, the dough will puff up and float. Dip the fish pieces in the batter and fry them, a few at a time, until golden brown. Drain the fish on paper towels and serve it, piping hot, with the sauce on the side, as a dip.

Final Notes

Should you have any cooked and unsauced flounder left after dinnertime, store it in the Fridge and the next day use it to make **Oriental Fish Salad.** Combine the flaked fish with cooked rice and then toss in some soy sauce and sesame oil. Garnish the salad with some sliced radishes and scallions.

Attention Readers:

About that color cover...

We have received many calls concerning the 4-color cover on our April 19th issue. While everyone loved the appearance of it, many complained that they wanted to save the issue and didn't want to cut out the coupons on the two advertisements. So we are repeating the coupons this week for your convenience. For those that still don't want to maim their copy of L.I.F., we suggest that you just write a letter to the advertiser. Sorry!

To receive an "area selected" assortment of three (3) "Rugged" REBELs, a REBEL patch and catalog, send $6.00 to REBEL, Dept. **FG479** , P. O. Box 1587, Fort Smith, AR 72902.

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Reef Development Proposed in Senate Bill

Florida Senator Dick Stone has introduced a bill that could have a very positive effect on ocean fisheries. The "Marine Artificial Reef Development Act of 1979" (S.325) authorizes $2,500,000 each of the next five fiscal years, starting October 1, 1979. The purposes are: (1) to establish a mechanism that will enable states to develop artificial reefs in waters under U.S. jurisdiction; (2) to enhance fishing by developing accessible quality fishing grounds and further avoid conflicts between commercial and recreational user groups; (3) to provide for financial assistance to qualifying states for the implementation of this program; (4) to encourage the use of appropriate Federal surplus properties as artificial reef materials; and (5) to promote cooperative agreements between salvage companies and the Federal Government to provide transportation of vessels or material to the site of approved reefs.

Co-sponsorship of this bill has been provided by Senators Lowell Weicker (Ct.) and Lawton Chiles (Fl.). Specifically, the bill provides that the Secretary of Commerce will be authorized to make grants to the states to cover seventy-five percent of the cost of developing marine artificial reefs in state waters (up to three miles), and to develop such habitats in the Federally-administrated fishery conservation zone. Selection of sites would be determined by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the states, Coast Guard and fishery management councils.

There is little question but that artificial reefs constitute a prime attraction for many species of fish. Indeed, there are relatively few species which thrive on open bottom. Vast areas of our otherwise productive Continental Shelf are virtual deserts in terms of fishery production. Fisheries in such areas tend to be intensively concentrated on the few areas of "good bottom." Many species are almost always found on solid substrate. Senator Stone is particularly concerned with the heavily-fished grouper/snapper populations in the Gulf of Mexico, but we have the same concern with such species as sea bass and blackfish. Even fish that live over a variety of bottoms often tend to concentrate heavily on wreckage, thereby providing the best opportunities for sport fishing. Anyone who's fished an offshore wreck for cod and pollack can attest to that.

There has been some argument among fishery managers as to whether artificial reefs actually enhance the populations, or simply concentrate the available fish. In order to settle this question, a project was conducted in south Florida. An artificial reef was established in the vicinity of a natural reef. Accurate fish counts were made on both sites, before and after completion of the study. The net result was a doubling of the fish population in the area! The artificial reef quickly attracted the minute fish life and crabs which, in turn, allowed juvenile game fish to settle in and grow rapidly in a suitable environment. Of course, the experience of Gulf Coast anglers with the many oil rigs in their area constitutes further proof of the importance of artificial reefs. Before the oil rigs, that generally flat, muddy bottom provided little of interest to anglers. Now the oil rigs attract great numbers of such diverse game fish as amberjack, barracuda, pompano, red snapper, kingfish, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, jacks, white trout, croaker, bonito, lookdown, and channel bass—some of which were not even found in the area before!

Even areas with lots of "good bottom" should do everything possible to improve their situation. The State of Florida has been very active in this area, as has North Carolina. These were among the states that took advantage of the surplus Liberty ships provided by the Federal Government for use as artificial reefs. Unfortunately, New York has not been as active as it should be in this area. I'm sure the lack of a saltwater license is used as the reason, but it should be noted that the States which have taken advantage of their opportunities don't have saltwater licenses either!

Your backing for this legislation is very important. Write to Senator Dick Stone, Room 1327, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 to express your support. Even more important: write to Senators Javits and Moynahan asking for their co-sponsorship of S.325.

Canadian Records Indicate Little Recruitment to Giant Tuna Stock

Figures recently published in the IGFA newsletter "The International Marine Angler" show that giant tuna landed in Canada continue to grow larger every year—indicating a lack of newer year classes entering the fishery. The average weight of all tunas taken in 1977 ranged from 723 lbs. for those caught in July (versus 708 lbs. in 1977) to 983 lbs. for those taken at the end of the feeding season in November (versus 963 lbs. in 1977). The most amazing statistic involves the tuna caught at Prince Edward Island in October. Those fish **averaged** 1,035 lbs.! It wasn't many years ago that the world record didn't even reach the 1000 lb. mark. The 1977 figure for Prince Edward tuna in October was a "mere" 958 lbs.

As if that fishing wasn't good enough, Nova Scotia fishermen boated fifteen tuna near the Strait of Canso in November which averaged 1,083 lbs.! Just about all of the records fell during the Canadian fall fishing. The men's all tackle record was pushed up to 1,235 lbs., while the women's 130 lb. mark was set at 1,170 lbs. Carl Mickelsen, of McAfee, N.J., took the men's 80 lb. honors with a 1,055 lb. giant that fought for three hours.

The ever-increasing size of the catch is a joy to anglers, but a definite danger sign in the fishery. Without a doubt, these giants are nearing the end of their life cycles, and there is little recruitment from more recent year classes to take up the slack. It seems to be only a question of time before we'll enter a period of very minimal tuna catches. Canada is already taking action to prevent rapid depletion of the present stocks. Strict regulations limit the catch to rod and reel, except for fish caught in traps and pounds in St. Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia. Last year the total catch amounted to 1,039 tuna, of which rod and reel fishermen boated 443 at Prince Edward Island; 35 off New Brunswick; 12 off Quebec; 17 in Nova Scotia, and two in Newfoundland. The latter area produced hundreds of tuna each summer during the Sixties, but is now almost devoid of giants. In Nova Scotia, traps accounted for 70 tuna, and 460 were netted in holding pens to be fattened for sale. The Canadians were very disturbed about an illegal longline fishery discovered off Prince Eward Island last summer. That gear was seized.

While Canada has taken action to protect the giants that enter their waters each summer, American conservation efforts have been almost totally negated by the Japanese longline fishery conducted every spring in the Gulf of Mexico. Since tuna are exempted from the 200-Mile Limit act, the U.S. has no control over foreign fishermen. The State Department has talked a good game about getting the Japanese to cooperate in preserving these stocks,

but has only succeeded in reducing their annual catch from about 9,000 to 8,000 giants—mostly in pre-spawning condition. As State seems to have no stomach for pushing the Japanese any further, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has proposed opening up the tight quotas for American sport and commercial fishermen on giants, and cutting out the purse seine fishery for school tuna in order to promote long-term improvement of the stocks. Unfortunately, that widely-heralded proposal is bogged down in paper work and may never go into effect before the school tuna come inshore in June.

About the only good news on this front, is the word that Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) plans to sponsor an amendment to the 200-Mile Act which would extend U.S. fisheries management to tuna—an action endorsed by most Councils and sportsmen's organizations, plus the East Coast tuna seiners and the American Swordfish Association. Our experience to date has proven this to be the only reasonable way of dealing with the problem.

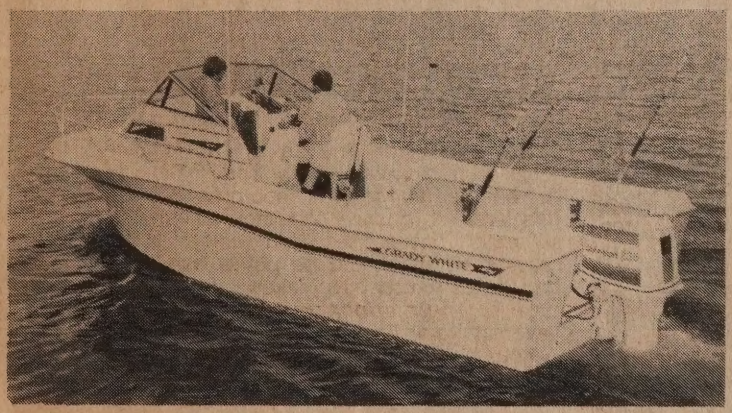
Doug Marshall Appointed Executive Director of New England Council

In a move that surprised most observers, the New England Fishery Management Council appointed Doug Marshall as its new Executive Director. Doug is presently with the State Department, and had a major role in the recent negotiations with Canada on a fisheries treaty. While there is no question of Doug's competence, the appointment was a surprise when considered against the background of frequent tangles between the New England Council and State. Offhand, it seems equivalent to appointing a Republican to serve as chairman of the Democratic National Committee! In view of the many problems associated with the groundfish plan, the most important qualification for Executive Director of the New England Council has got to be the ability to take plenty of abuse—and still come up smiling. Doug's had plenty of good training in that respect while at State. The previous Exec, Spencer Appolonio, resigned to take over once again as Maine's fisheries chief. He'll now be representing his State on the Council as a voting member.

Eighteen Inch Limit for Cod and Haddock Looks Likely

With improved survey results leading to bigger groundfish quotas, there's also been some attempt to improve the conservation regulations under which this fishery operates. Unfortunately, the commercial fishermen haven't been receptive to most suggestions—especially the badly-needed increase in mesh size. However, there has been favorable reaction to an eighteen inch length limit for cod and haddock. This wouldn't be a very strict limit as a recreational fisherman would be allowed two fish under eighteen inches in his bag, and commercials would be allowed up to ten percent of their catch. The effect in our area would be very minor indeed. Only occasionally does a party boat drop on cod smaller than eighteen inches. Some are encountered off Block Island, but this proposed regulation probably won't save many fish west of Cape Cod.

1979 GRADY-WHITE 240 OFFSHORE



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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

THE WEAKFISH ARE COMING!

COMING? They're here! Each Spring, I look forward to the coming of the weakfish because these are predators that can be cooperative in the day and eager battlers on light tackle. However, like many of you, I've been disappointed in the past few years and although the weakfish seem to be getting bigger and bigger each season, they also seem to be getting fewer and fewer. Last year, I barely fished for weakfish from a boat because I found that my beloved Peconic Bay just didn't produce the way it should. Sure, some guys scored well, but the vast schools of fish are gone. What will it be like this year; what is it like this year, and what will the future bring for the weakfish? Have we seen the last of the great grey hordes already? Is the cycle over? These are some of the questions that we will raise in this week's column.

BY NOW THE FIRST CATCHES OF WEAKS ARE HISTORY, and we've all had a chance to evaluate the season. At the time that this column was written there were no weaks taken by sportsmen as yet, but draggers working the near ocean had begun to take impressive catches at times. Does this mean that we are on the verge of a great season. Not necessarily. Last year, the draggers did great, the fish traps did great, and the gill netters did great; but only the poor sport fishermen had to struggle and, in some cases, it wasn't much of a struggle. There were some fishermen who did well, day after day, but this was an exception and if you analyze the situations in which sport fishermen took weaks consistently, it turns out that the overwhelming majority of the blitzes occurred at night. This is important because it reflects the progress of the few years classes that we have been harvesting for the last nine years. As the fish get bigger and fewer, competition is lighter and the fish more wary. As some sharpies say, "those big fish don't survive to old age by being dumb."

WARY PREDATORS FEED AT NIGHT! There is both ample evidence for this and ample reason why the big fish prefer to feed at night. There is less noise from boat traffic, swimmers, and passing cars. There is less competition from small fish which may be predacious in the day, but are fair game at night—such as snapper blues, mackerel, and white perch. The prey are easier to catch at night, too, because the predator need worry less about concealment and many prey do not see as well at night as the predators. Big fish are lazy too, and although they may chase bait around like crazy in the day when they are young, they aren't growing as fast and thus they can make do with a few big baits rather than many little ones.

ANOTHER YEAR FOR NIGHT FISHING. Thus, all in all, I think that weakfishing at night will again be better than the day version in most cases. Night chumming, night casting, and night drifting should be the preferred methods this year. If the hordes of little blues return again there will be even more reason for the weaks to feed at night. Last year, many fishermen found weaks in the day, but couldn't manage to get their baits through the blues to the weaks which coasted below the blues content to feed on whatever the blues killed or ignored. For those who work the edges of the day-feeding small bluefish schools, the results in weakfish may be noteworthy. However, that takes a lot of patience since it is tough to look the other way when an acre of blues goes bananas.

SLIDE SHOW QUESTIONS ABOUT WEAKFISH. Many fishermen showed a lot of concern about the weakfish situation as we roamed around this winter from club to club. A lot of the club members expressed confusion over the fact that each Summer and Fall they see many young of the year weakfish in the Great South Bay, yet these fish don't seem to return in the years that follow. What becomes of these young weaks they ask? No one, to the best of my knowledge can answer that question with total authority, but there are some clues. For one thing, we know that predation on the migrating young weaks is tremendous. Furthermore, we believe that these fish migrate south that first winter and some scientists have suggested that they will only migrate back north again if there is an over-abundance of weakfish down south. Thus, these experts say, we get the spill-over from the southern stocks. If there is no spill-over, then we don't get the great runs of weaks. Last year for the first time in almost ten years, there was a good year class production out of the Peconics and perhaps this will signify that the weaks are once again on the increase; but only time will tell.

PREDICTION. I think that we will catch a fair share of big weaks again this year; however, there will be few of the three, four, and five pound fish that were the bulk of the fishery in the early 1970s. Night fishermen should do better than day birds, although there will be—here and there—the occasional exception. The season for the big fish will start to wane about early June, although the inlets may produce into July and, indeed, may produce all summer. The fall should see good numbers of bigger weakfish also; but most of these fish will be taken in or just outside the inlets or in twenty to forty feet of water along the beaches. The summer should see a fair amount of small, one to three pound fish available especially in Peconic Bay, although the best of this fishing will occur in late August.

BAITS: I think, at least for the time being, that the era of the plastic shrimp has seen its better days. For those who insist upon using artificials, I think that curly-tail lures like Mr. Twister, rubber worms like Mann's, Indian Scent, Boone, and others should produce better than the shrimp because they show more swimming action. Trollers will find good success with umbrellas and other tube lures; while diamond jiggers should succeed at Montauk, in Long Island Sound, and off the South Shore beaches. Night casters will find that weaks feeding on the dark tides will take small plugs such as Rebels, Red-Fins, and Mirro-Lures. This will have a high likelihood of coming true if there are once again great numbers of tinker mackerel available as there were last year. The small macks were especially effective attractors of weakfish in Long Island Sound and in the South Shore Inlets.

LIVE BAITS MAY BE BETTER! I plan to use more live baits when fishing for weakfish this spring from a small boat and I may do some considerable live lining of mackerel from the beach if the tinks are around. In Peconic, I plan to drift sand worms around such places as the South Race, Nassau Point, Cow Neck, and Jessup's. I have toyed with the idea of clam chumming in a few spots that look like appropriate producers; but since the price of a can of clam belies has risen so outrageously, I have had second thoughts. Chumming with grass shrimp is also a good possibility for productive fishing; however, the grass shrimp are tough to collect yourself and although several local bait dealers do carry them, it is sometimes inconvenient and always expensive. I just don't know. It would seem that the old sand worm is the best alternative, and the fishermen aboard the boat can still cast the rubber stuff while we wait for a pick-up on the drifted worm. One thing that I do plan to do that I would perhaps not have done in years gone by is to use a high-low rig. One hook will be attached

directly to the sinker, while the other will be fixed, via a three-way swivel, about three feet above the first hook. That way, I hope to get a crack at those big lazy critters that are laying on the bottom just waiting for my worm.

WHAT ABOUT NEXT YEAR? Have we really seen the last of the vast schools of weakfish? I doubt that we have, although available information would cause one to doubt that the runs of weaks will again reach the incredible levels of the early 1970s. But, if one examines the history of the Thirties and Forties, the model of weakfish cyclical activity reveals that after the first great push and then a modest down-turn, there can be expected pulses of year classes for at least the next ten years. In the 1940 and again the Fifties, at least up until the mid-1950s, there were years when a good spring run of weaks surprised local fishermen in the Peconics and in Long Island Sound, although fishing in the Great South Bay showed much less inspiration. The large schools of small weaks that have been in evidence for the last few years seems to indicate that there will be another pulse of activity in the years immediately ahead, and it is the sincere hope of all light tackle fishermen that this likelihood come true.

MAYBE WE NEED A COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN. Can we have any effect upon the very cyclical nature of the weakfish? Can we and should we, develop a management plan for the weakfish under the jurisdiction of the 200-Mile Limit law? Many folks would argue with that suggestion since some scientists still maintain that weakfish are an inshore species exclusively. However, we know that many weakfish—perhaps the entire adult population—winter over on the Continental Shelf in about fifty fathoms of water which is well beyond the twelve mile limit. Thus, the weakfish can be harvested by foreign fishing vessels; indeed, I believe that they have been harvested as by-catch all along but not reported and, therefore, there should be a management plan for weakfish. Others would argue that the weakfish is a species of greatly varying abundance and that it is changes in the environment, not harvesting, that affects their abundance. Therefore, these critics would say, it isn't worthwhile to develop a management for weakfish. Still, if we can develop a plan for bluefish then why should weakfish be neglected? Research may show that the size of the weakfish population can be stabilized or that certain harvesting practices bring about the premature decline of the species. In this case, a management plan would be most helpful because it would allow us to get the most out of the resource for the longest period of time. We must

(Continued on page 43.)

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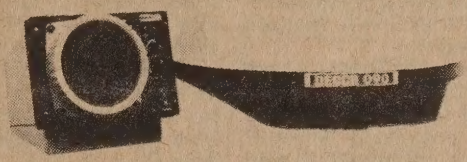

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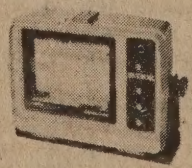

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OLD TIMERS' CORNER
"The way it was..." with Matt Ahern

LETTERS—AND MORE LETTERS

It seems the more we become involved with this Old-Timers' Corner column, the more interest it generates. It is a rare day when an old-time fisherman doesn't get in touch and tell me just how much the old days meant to him and his sport. Some admit that they never realized how good they had it.

I also receive occasional letters from lady anglers who tell me of their fathers and the love for fishing these old-timers possessed. Some of these ladies have continued to fish to this day; and I'll tell you, fellers, these ladies are good "fishermen." They surprise me with their knowledge and expertise. God bless 'em.

But this is not to say it is only the old-timer who writes. I've received letters from fishermen in their late teens expressing the delight of reading "the way it was" in the long ago. This, to me, is a great revelation because I figured such a column as this would appeal only to the fellow who lived through those days when fishing was really fishing. But not so.

That column on the tragic loss of the MJR III (Issue #1, 1979) brought much comment. Because this disaster happened so long ago, few fishermen knew the exact story of what happened: some had the MJR III crashing into the freighter instead of the other way around; some had the home port confused, etc.

But one fellow had it exactly right. He is Joe Mazimuto of Brooklyn. Joe was mate that day aboard the ill-fated MJR III. He knows from firsthand terrifying experience what it means to be so close to death and yet escape with minor injuries, only, as Joe says, because he was lucky to be on the starboard side instead of port. The fact that he was on the bow instead of in the stern is what saved him. Some fellows wrote and said my description of the scene sent chills racing up and down their spines. Well ... let me tell you that that is exactly what Joe's letter did to me. Can you imagine being so close to that freighter as it cut the MJR III in two that you could reach out and touch its side as it went by. Now, that is a spine-chilling experience.!

That story also had another outcome for me. Charlie Olsen of Amityville got in touch. Charlie is the son of Captain Dick Persson of the Rose R II. Charlie, of course, was aboard that fateful day, and naturally recalls it vividly. But this isn't all. I haven't seen Charlie in over forty years and lost touch. How about that?

Another popular Old Timers' Corner column was the one on Sheepshead Bay party boats (Issue #44, 1978). One fellow, Ed Raynor of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, said that particular column brought a lump to his throat as he went over the list of Sheepshead Bay party boat skippers and recognized some of whom he knew personally in those days.

Rudolf Peknic of Bayside didn't bother to write a letter—he sent his comments on a cassette tape! Extremely interesting listening. My thanks, Rudy. Hope you enjoyed my reply.

I was brought to task by Arthur Heyman of Elmhurst. Art said I had mistakenly made Joe Ecock of Sheepshead Bay fame a skipper instead of the best mate he ever knew. These errors are bound to arise when one searches his memory of a half-century ago and tries to whip it into shape. Sorry about that, Art; I know your comments were sincere.

And eighty-one-year-old Bob Barbera of New Rochelle sent me an extremely interesting letter. He related how skipper Frank Hammer of the old green-hulled Whitby out of Sheepshead Bay used to go among his passengers, checking the riggings, and cut off those riggings that weren't just right for the fishing conditions of the day. He would then re-rig the errant fisherman properly. Bob also said he thanks God he lived to see the first edition of The Long Island Fisherman. I do, too, Bob. Thanks again for the nice letter. And God bless you, too.

I am sorry if this particular Old-Timers' column has not delved much into fishing as it used to be, but I know you fellows will bear with me. I just had to get to these letters in order to get my thoughts oriented for next month, and also get cracking on the regular weekly sinker bouncing column. I do hate to have mail pile up.

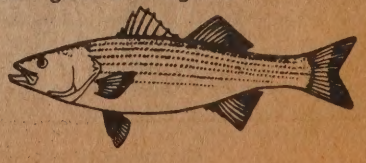
Below are some of the readers who have been kind enough to write me their views on old-time fishing and related subjects. If your name does not appear as yet (space limitations), be assured that it will in the next Old-Timer column on letters.

My heartfelt thanks to: Bob Barbera, New Rochelle; C. Wm. Bechtle, Mineola; Joseph Cordero, Middle Village; Sal D'Angelo, West Babylon; Jim DeVita of Skidmore's Fishing Station, East Moriches; William Diebold, Babylon; John DeRosa, Valley Stream; Jimmy Donlon, Brooklyn; William "Red" Gronan, Rego Park; Stephen Gribb, Bronx; Edward J. Haring, Brooklyn; Arthur Heyman, Elmhurst; C. Heilman, Bronx; John Hahn, Flushing; Miss B. Herrera, Brooklyn; Arthur D. Hutter, South Farmingdale.

And: Eugene J. Johnson, North Babylon; Peter F. Kitsch, Paradise, Penn.; Henry and Emily Kulhanek, Flushing; Stan Lake, Amityville (Stan is the fishing scribe for the Massapequa Post newspaper); Fred Lightfoot of the Lightfoot Collection, Greenport; Al Meyer, Sr., Locust Valley; Joseph Mazimuto, Brooklyn; Richard F. Mayer, East Northport; C. Olsen, Amityville; Rudolf Peknic, Bayside; John A. Porco, Carmel, New York; Paul Panepinto, Bklyn.; Ed Raynor, Perth Amboy, New Jersey; Andy Regina, Bronx; Alec Rosen, Brooklyn; Mike Shalkowski, Huntington Station; and Ben Thornblom, Oceanside.

I might as well tell you now that some of these fellows have written me as much as four times and we have quite a correspondence going—and damned if I don't enjoy every minute of it. Swell folks—every single blessed one. Again, I thank each and every one. Your letters bring back pleasant memories and often ease the rough spots of writing such a column.

Any time you fellows out there have a free moment and would like to discuss past fishing, or anything pertaining to it, or any comment at all, drop me a line at 20 Dogwood Road, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. We'll go over it together.



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Surf Side with John Fritz

MAY POTPOURRI

In the old days before fishermen kept log books, or the local radio and newspapers kept tabs on the movement of fish along our shores, venerable fishermen equated the arrival of certain species of fish with the blooming of particular flowers. According to local folklore, the emergence of the Forsythia signified that the winter flounder were sufficiently recovered from their stay in the mud to assure a reasonable chance of success if a trip was undertaken at this time. Coincidental with the blossoming of lilacs, the blackfish are presumed to be swarming into the more rocky areas of the shore line. Whether this ancient wisdom is exact does not really matter. It is of sufficient accuracy to provide a rough guide that tells us when we can expect to have reasonable success with these species. During the month of May, when innumerable plants burst forth to shower the landscape with a myriad of color, the surfman can be certain that the time has arrived to catch game fish on artificial lures. Nowhere on Long Island is this more evident than on the varied coastline of the North Shore. Striped bass, weakfish, bluefish, and mackerel inundate the solar-heated waters to feed ravenously after their long winter's fast. It is when these predators herd the baitfish against the shore line that the beach-bound angler can enjoy himself to the utmost, while putting fresh fare on the dinner table.

Striped bass—the species most sought after by surfmen—begin to make their presence known in the western Sound by the first week of May. Although sand worms have produced fish prior to this date and will continue to do so throughout the season, the warmer water temperatures encountered now allows the bass to shake off his lethargy and begin chasing baitfish. These early fish are generally school bass which will respond to small lures. Therefore, light tackle should be used for better feel of the lures and to gain a greater appreciation of the fighting ability of the fish.

Artificials such as the four to five inch Rebels and RedFins, in either the floating or sinking models, are preferred by many anglers after sunset. When the current is slack, the split-tail versions of either of these plugs will impart more lifelike action to your lure. In waters with strong surging currents, less action is desired. Therefore, the MirroLure or Hellcat plugs should be used if the Rebels and RedFins gyrate unnaturally. During the daylight hours, Hopkins or Kastmaster tins in the half ounce weight can be extremely effective.

This infusion of spring bass into the western Sound is found to be in a west-to-east movement, because for the most part these fish have spent the winter in the Hudson River. There is a movement of over-wintering fish which have begun to spread along the coast after being trapped in the hot water outflow at Northport. This flow is minor when compared to the truly migrating fish, but it does have an impact in the waters adjacent to the plant.

The next species to arrive, although not really considered a surf fish, is the mackerel. By the close of the first week in May, they are firmly entrenched over large areas of Long Island Sound. The pattern followed by these fish is the reverse of the Hudson River bass, but identical to most other species of fish which seasonally visit these waters, in that the influx is made from east to west. In this manner, the polluted waters in the vicinity of New York City are avoided. It would be interesting to see if this migration pattern would change if these waters were cleansed.

Generally, mackerel are a species of fish to be enjoyed by boatmen who grow arm-weary filling sacks with these hard-fighting fish. It is on those occasions when these fish chase the sand eels close to the beach that surfmen using tackle relative to the size of the fish can have himself a ball catching a supply of bait to be used later in the season for lunker bass or alligator blues.

Last year, these vast schools of mackerel lingered in the Sound well into June, much to the annoyance of anglers seeking the more exotic species. When the schools of macks swung into the beach, all attempts at fishing for bass or weaks proved fruitless. This is not their normal routine for they are usually gone from most of the Sound by the last week of May. Possibly the extremely cold winter we experienced in '78 chilled the water to a point where the macks found it more to their liking. In all likelihood it was the vast numbers of sand eels present throughout the area which delayed their departure.

For whatever reason, the mackerel stayed with us for an extended period providing sport for the tolerant anglers. Small shiny tins similar to the Hopkins Kastmaster or Side-Winder accounted for the majority of the mackerel caught from the beach. Because diminutive lures were most effective, light tackle could be used to fully appreciate the fighting qualities of these fish.

The month of May will herald the arrival of another battling game fish—the weakfish. Since their comeback several years ago, they have admirably filled the niche once held by the now-depleted stocks of striped bass. Although the methods used and the areas fished are similar to fishing for bass, certain lures are more conducive to the likings of the weakfish. When the weaks first staged their recovery, the plastic shrimp was the Number One lure. Although lead-headed jigs with soft plastic tails are still a prime weakfish lure, the shape of these jigs has changed somewhat in recent years. The white Mr. Twister and the red Tri-Fin

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Eelworm are the preferred lures of a great many surfmen in the quest of weaks. These lures worked slowly along the bottom with a slight lifting of the rod tip often produces results when floating plugs are ignored. If a strong current is present and your other choices prove ineffective, the MirroLure 52M has, in the past, shown itself to be a capable plug. In calm water with soft currents, the old standby Rebels and RedFins will do the job.

The last species to arrive, but worth waiting for, is the bluefish. Their appearance is sudden and hectic, unlike the slow infusion associated with the return of the bass and weaks. Since these early arrivals are generally smaller fish, widely known as harbor blues, the popping plugs and shiny tins which they readily attack can be scaled down to a dimension more in keeping with the size of the quarry. By using lures similar to the one ounce Hopkins or the seven-eighth ounce Cordell's Near Nuthin' Series, medium tackle allowing the angler to take full advantage of these battling fish can be employed.

Dawn and dusk, before the boatmen become too numerous, are prime periods to take all of the aforementioned species. After the sun has set, bass and weakfish can still be sought with a better chance of success than in the daylight. At this early stage of the season relatively calm water is desired, unlike the wild and blustery days looked for in autumn.

Some of the early hotspots include, but are not limited to: Bayville, Lloyd's Neck, Makamah, Sunken Meadow, Mt. Sinai, Wading River, and the Horton's Point area. Some of these areas have restrictions placed on their use by non-residents, but usually the regulations are relaxed until Memorial Day. In order that you are not shut out, a check beforehand is advisable.

Even though the days are mellow, the temperature quickly drops once the sun has set; therefore, warm clothing will be more comfortable. Similarly, the warming sun has not had much chance to raise the water temperature to summer levels. Standing for extended periods, waist deep in these cool waters, can cause the body to become chilled. It is my contention that an angler will stay longer and concentrate more on his fishing technique if he is comfortable in his surroundings. Long underwear might seem out of place in the middle of May, but after standing several hours in cold water, this additional clothing will be greatly appreciated.

The general run of fish during the month of May may be on the small side, but for the purist they impart a welcome stage in the progression of the fledgling season. It is a time to work out the staleness incurred by the winter layoff and also a period where new lures and new methods planned during these past months can be put into practice in preparation for the arrival of larger fish in the coming month. The time for looking through the various catalogues choosing new and interesting lures had ended. It is now time for action.

PECONIC SMORGASBORD

(Continued from page 23.)

trap line or surplus parachute cord is used to close the mouth of the bag, and after being lowered to the bottom, tied off on an oar lock.

The chum should be kept frozen for as long as possible. I keep mine in an insulated ice chest. In its frozen state, the chum will last longer and be easier to cut into pieces. Two half-gallon containers of bellies is about right for a day's fishing. But if that size is not available, buy the three-gallon size or a like size of bunker chum. I know a commercial rod and reel porgy fisherman who swears by bunker chum. If you have the available room in your freezer, divide the large cans into smaller, more convenient packages or split the can with a friend. If worse comes to worse, bring the whole can. It adds a bit to the expense of the trip, but divide the cost by the number of anglers and it's not too bad. Using a small mesh pot or onion sack, I have never over-chummed; that is, fed the fish to a point where they were not interested in my bait.

When using the proper chumming techniques, where to fish becomes less of a problem. The fish will find you. But certain general areas will hold fish and it's to your advantage to locate them. The Race south of Robin's Island has always been good to me. But the stiff current usually requires between four to eight ounces of lead. A cluster of anchored skiffs usually means something. Or look for an anchored party boat, but be sure to give the professional plenty of room. If you like to find the fish yourself and the conditions are compatible with drifting, then just wait till you catch a porgy and anchor up. Odds are there'll be a lot more in the area.

A few last words. It has been my experience that when leaving at 3:30 a.m., I invariably forget something of major importance at home. A checklist of things to take, like a landing net (for those weakfish), foul weather gear, burlap sacks to keep your fish cool in, etc. Don't just make up the checklist—use it! And don't forget that chum: it's the major ingredient of what can turn out to be a perfect day on Peconic Bay.

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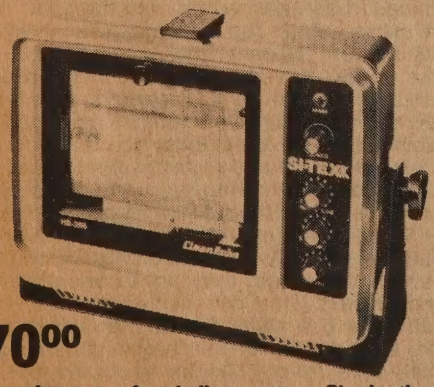

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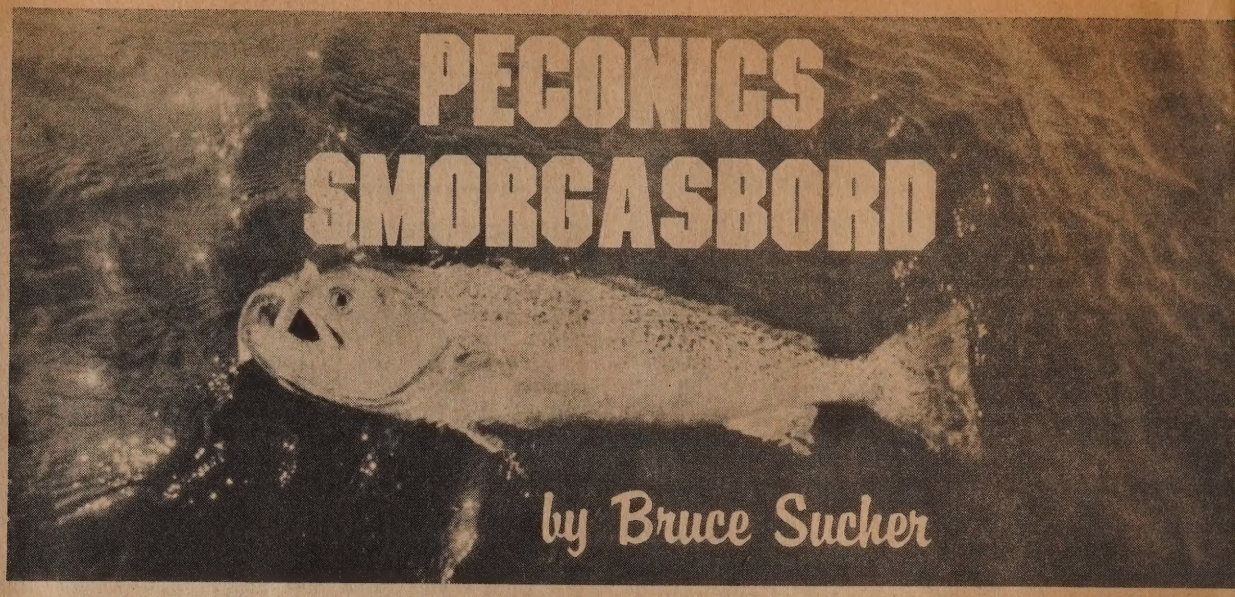
PECONICS SMORGASBORD

by Bruce Sucher



The moment of truth. A wide mouthed landing net should be considered essential.

Part of my definition of a good angler is someone who doesn't have to travel great distances to make consistently good catches. But sometimes wanderlust or favorable fishing reports become impossible to ignore. My yearly trip to Quincy is an example; and my one or two outings each spring to Peconic Bay has become a tradition. I guess, all told, I've fished the Peconics a dozen times. "Now who the heck is the guy to tell me how to fish when he doesn't know the area?" I agree with you. If you consistently and successfully fish the Bay, then this article is not intended for you. Who I am writing for are the numerous anglers who infrequently make that hundred mile trip from the City to New Suffolk or Port of Egypt. These anglers arrive in a relatively unfamiliar area with worn-from-handling, excellent fishing reports in their pockets—then proceed to do poorly. Back at the fishing station, they are amazed when they see other anglers with full fish boxes. But though I am not very familiar with Peconic Bay's hotspots, I have **always** done well.

I plan my first trip for two weeks after decent catches of weakfish and porgies are reported in L.I.F. I'm tempted to rush right out there and wet a line, but I realize that the report was probably about local sharpshooters who know which tide, water temperature and bottom structure to fish. I know my limitations and realize I can't match such knowledge of local conditions. So two weeks will give the fish ample time to reach the peak of their run: spawning and idly munching on sand eels and grass shrimp in anticipation of my arrival.

I call a fishing station and make reservations for the boat. Two weeks is usually enough notice, but don't be shocked if their weekends are already fully booked. If you can go during the week, so much the better; but reservations are still a must. Remember, you're not the only person who waited all winter to lock horns with a weakfish or porgy.

I will request a Fiberglas skiff, but sometimes you'll have to settle for an aluminum one. Though the tin-cans are lighter and easier to push with a small outboard, they are also a lot noisier; something to consider when you're stalking prey as wary as the weak. If you don't have your own outboard, then be sure to specify that you're going to need one. And if your engine has been sitting in your basement or garage all winter, it should be test started before you put it in the back of your car. I made that mistake once and pulled on my vintage five horsepower Evinrude until the starter cord broke off in my hand.

If possible, keep the maximum number of anglers in a skiff to three: two is better, but not always possible. I once saw four anglers in a sixteen-footer get into a blitz situation; from where I was sitting it looked like a Chinese fire drill, with tangled lines, a broken rod, etc. I'm sure they didn't find it amusing.

I bring along two or three rods. A light conventional outfit with a like-sized reel filled with fifteen pound test pink mono. A light to medium spin rod and reel with ten pound test, and sometimes a light, six foot spin rod and reel—the spool loaded with fresh six pound test. The conventional setup is used strictly for the bait fishing. The medium spin outfit is used to cast heavier lures (one to one-and-a-half ounces) and as a back-up in case something happens to either or both the other rods. The light spin stick and six pound test line is used to cast lures in the one-quarter to one-half ounce range. And it is not strictly a "fun" rod. When using artificials, the weakfish will sometimes show a marked preference for the smaller Mister Twisters, etc. The heavier rods and reels can't effectively cast these light weights. And those whippy sticks impart an action to your lure that can't be beat.

Though I've described the rods and reels I've used with success, I don't feel that they're essential. You can use damn near anything, including an old Ocean City reel mounted on an antique cane weakfish rod. What's important is a smoothly-working drag system and good quality line of about fifteen pound test. Soft action rods, in general, tend to be a better choice for this type of fishing. As I'm sure you already know, weakfish have fragile jaw structure and the soft action rod tends to be more forgiving of angler-related foul-ups.

I won't devote too much more time to the use of artificials, because they are not the point of this article. Just bring along an assortment of bucktails, shrimp tails, Mister Twisters, etc., in the one-quarter to one ounce range. And **always** attach a thin strip of squid to the hook, by passing it once only over the barb. Stay away from connecting links like snap swivels and tie your lure directly to the line.

As you drift along, cast your lure in the opposite direction the skiff is headed, and let it hit bottom. Lock your reel and begin a slow to medium retrieve with a lot of starts and stops. If nothing good happens, change your retrieve and/or lure choice. And if you see a particular boat doing well, try to see what they're doing and duplicate.

Somewhere around 9AM, the action on artificials slows to a crawl. Boat traffic and fishing pressure is probably the reason for the disappearance of weakfish. Now is the time to anchor up and bait fish. Usually three-quarters of my catch is made at this time. Then why not start off bait fishing? Because I like to catch weakfish on artificials. If I were solely interested in a full burlap, this is what I'd do.

The Peconic Hi-Lo rig has passed the test of time

for the area. Two #2 beak hooks, on twelve inch lengths of twenty pound leader material are tied in tandem a few inches above the sinker. Three feet above the smaller hooks, a 3/0 beak or Sproat on a thirty inch length of twenty pound pink mono is tied via a dropper loop or three-way swivel to the main line. (See diagram.) The sinker you use, should be just heavy enough to hold bottom. That can range from two to six ounces, depending upon the force of the current and your line strength. Remember, the heavier the line, the more water resistance and the more lead you'll need. If you don't want to make up your own rigs, then any tackle shop in the Peconic Bay area will sell them. These tend to be made with heavier leaders and more hardware than I like—but they'll do the job.

One of the baits I'll use is fresh—not frozen—skimmer clam. The foot should be cut into small half-inch cubes or narrow strips, and the lip and siphon into one inch lengths. This bait should be bunched on the smaller hooks with the point just penetrating the last bit. Figure on a dozen clams per angler if you intend to bait fish the better part of a day.

Squid should be bought from your local fish market in the unfrozen state; the fresher the better. Stay away from the pre-cleaned stuff as that usually means that it was on its way out. Fresh squid has many advantages over the frozen. First, they're from the N.Y. vicinity and of the same species that weakfish frequently feed on. The frozen squid is generally from California; is of small size; soft-textured, and is just not as effective. I've eaten both types of calamare and if I can tell the difference—then I assume the fish can too. With the fresh, you can pick the size you want (three or four to the pound). The strips are tough and will stay on your hooks a lot longer. Figure one pound of squid for each angler.

After cleaning, the squid should be cut into strips. For your high hook bait fishing rig, cut them five inches long and tapered from three-quarter inches wide to a point. Strips for your artificials should be three to four inches long, and three-eighth inches wide and tapered. The squid head can be used whole if they're not too large or cut down the middle so each piece has four tentacles.

Place the long, wide strips on your high hook by running it once, and once only through the heavier end. And any scraps from the fins and heads should be set aside as an alternate bait for your smaller low hooks. Clam is a superior bait for the porgies, sea bass, etc., but for some reason, I tend to catch the bigger porgies on bits of squid.

Sand worms have become an extravagantly expensive bait. They can be very effective, but the squid and clam will suffice. If you have the spare cash, invest (you don't just buy worms anymore) in a dozen. They should be threaded head-first onto the shank of the larger high hook, with the bend and point protruding from one-third the worm's body length. And when combined with the strip of squid, it can be especially good. Any small or broken worms can be used on your bottom hugging smaller hooks.

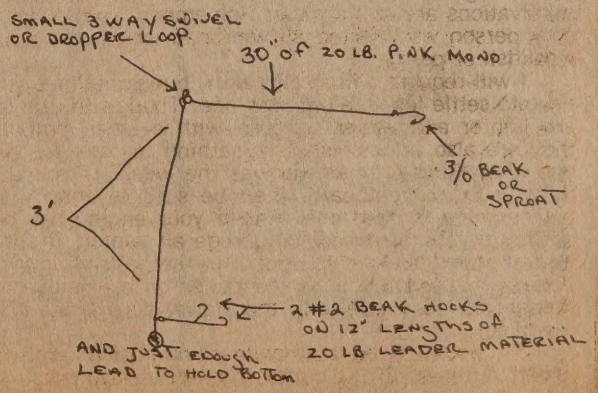
As an angler unfamiliar with Peconic Bay, the one portion of this article that you cannot afford to ignore is on chumming. And I cannot over-emphasize its use. It has proven to be the one technique which consistently produces large quantities of fish. My favorite chum is frozen clam bellies, followed closely by bunker chum (also frozen). Crushed mussels, clams and crabs will all work, but they're not nearly as effective or convenient as the others.

A weighted chum pot or mesh bag is essential to its proper use. The small commercially available pots are not heavy enough, but if you like, you can fill the bottom with two to three pounds of lead, but that doesn't leave much room for the chum. A mesh onion sack obtained from your neighborhood vegetable stand will do the job nicely. Pick up a few stones from the beach with a combined weight of about ten pounds and place them in the sack. Then add your chum. Nylon crab

(Continued on page 21.)

An angler displays a nice mixed bag of weakfish, tautog, porgy and sea bass.

After a good day the fish are prepared for cleaning.


SMALL 3 WAY SWIVEL OR DROPPER LOOP
30" OF 20 LB. PINK MONO
3/0 BEAK OR SPROAT
3'
2'
2 #2 BEAK HOOKS ON 12" LENGTHS OF 20 LB LEADER MATERIAL
AND JUST ENOUGH LEAD TO HOLD BOTTOM

A Block Island WEEKEND

by George Gerhold

Traditionally each year, the writer and a group of fishing buddies make the run from New Suffolk to Block Island for the spring run of cod and pollack. Last year, the trip was postponed in order to take advantage of the three-day Memorial weekend, which turned out to be a mistake. Therefore, this article will be on the activities of the weekend, but spiced with a bit of nostalgia from trips of the past.

Rather than spend needless time detailing the conditions and weather, suffice it to say we arrived at Block Island on schedule. Unfortunately, what greeted us upon our arrival was not scheduled: a fog that stayed with us the major portion of the three days. Had not the previous years given us the needed experience, we probably would have come home without any fish. The first important bit of knowledge we can pass on is that New Harbor is virtually paved with good size flounder, and being early in the season for Block Island, there is very little fishing competition. In fact, I would venture to say almost non-existent. The only boats trying for the flounder were sailboats moored there for the evening.

To pinpoint the better areas, as you come into New Harbor and pass the Coast Guard Station on the right, at the first black buoy you hang a quick left and run about fifty to sixty yards, possibly a little more and then start bearing to the left towards the beach. If you anchor in about twenty to thirty feet of water you should now be on good sandy bottom. Test the bottom because this is important. We have studied the bottom in a good part of New Harbor and found it to be muddy and silty and definitely not productive. The sandy area is where all the action is. There are many good sandy patches, but the one we detailed is the easiest to maneuver in and affords a large enough area to move around. The water is so clear here that if you are in twenty feet and the day is clear enough, you can actually see the fish come up and take your bait. This is an experience in itself; to actually see fish take your bait is hypnotic. You catch yourself failing to react simply because you become engrossed in being an observer. But, back to reality. There is an additional added bonus: if you are brave enough, there is clamming and scallops in the same area, close to the beach.

As indicated earlier, we were besieged with fog the major portion of the three days, which prohibited us from fishing some of the areas we had intended, but from the reports we received from the local Block Islanders, the cod had left and there was only an occasional school of pollack to be found. So my suggestion to anyone attempting this trip (which, incidentally, can be attempted by our small boat owners far easier than the large boats) is to keep abreast of the fishing conditions through The Long Island Fisherman and sportswriters, for when the run is at its peak. As to the small boat owners, there are ramps to launch your boat from Montauk, and providing sea conditions permit, you have a sixteen mile run. One bit of caution: currents are an important factor to be dealt with and a chart must be plotted with all courses to all the fishing grounds and buoys, with the reciprocal headings also indicated.

Had we not plotted these courses and logged the distances, as well as calculated the amount of running time, we undoubtedly would have spent the entire three days in the Northeast Harbor. Incidentally, this may not have been that bad as the major portion of our catch consisted of the large flounder (not showshoes) that inhabit this area. In any event, we managed to fish areas such as The Hooter, Southwest Ledge, Sharks Ledge, Sub Buoy, and even over to Great Eastern, which is just off of Montauk. This was all done running in fog and accounted for the mixed bag we returned home with. I readily admit that the sea conditions were fantastic. The only bad water encountered was at the traditional rips, which made navigation a lot easier. Yet it is your navigational ability that I am stressing at this point of the report. Not one, but three out of a crew of four on this trip was constantly rechecking time distance, magnetic courses and alternate distances in the event we miscalculated. One amazing fact that I was totaliy unprepared for was the absence of party and charter boats at most of the fishing grounds we visited. Granted, some of this was due to the absence of good fishing in the areas and possibly the lack of customers because of the poor weather; but yet we did encounter a good amount of small boats. This may sound as though I'm touting small boats—far from it. Like us, they were probably weekenders, but I did come to one conclusion. Not one small boat came up to us and asked "Is this the way to..." That speaks for itself—they knew what they were doing.

My final comment for this portion of the report is that Block Island is most certainly far more than a dream to the small boat owner, but it can be a nightmare for any size boat if any skipper attempts it without properly preparing for all navigational situations and conditions for a trip such as this.

Now I think it's about time we delve into the areas to fish around

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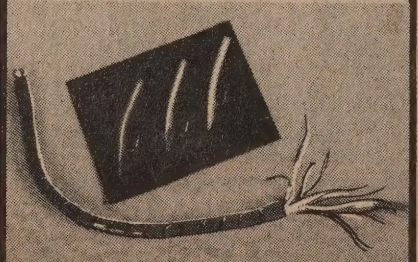

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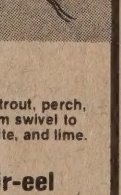

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Block Island and detail how to get the most out of these grounds. I mentioned last year's trip wasn't as productive as previous years, so this next part is based on several years' experience working the areas around Block Island.

Our first attempt this year for the cod and pollack was at the Southeast Grounds, which is directly off the Southeast Light on Block Island in the seventy to eighty foot depths. Finding the area not overly productive (yet it is a good spot for both cod and pollack), we tried "Sharks Ledge," which is southeast of this position. During the height of the run it is not necessary to know the exact coordinates, since the mass of boats will readily pinpoint the area for you. But again, if one of those infamous fogs roll in, you will need to rely on your navigational ability in getting back. In any event, you have one or two alternate methods of fishing: the traditional clam setup (which, incidentally, we always bring with us) or the diamond jig, with a small tube on a drop loop about three feet above the jig. Scott Simons in one of the back issues of The Long Island Fisherman, detailed the method which is most productive, so I won't belabor the point, except to comment: a slow retrieve and then drop back to the bottom, and the process repeated. Scott gave the reasons why he felt this method was productive and I will only add my comment that the currents are pretty swift and a fast retrieval, in my experience, only succeeds in wrapping the tube around your line.

Sharks Ledge, when the run is on, is the most productive area and my best analogy is to say you are usually caught up in the fever. As far as pollack are concerned, it is about the best area around Block Island, although there are other areas that produce—but not nearly as well.

If cod is your game and you are not that interested in pollack—although I must admit that judging from the fight between the two, there is no comparison—pollack will win hands down any time. Yet, if you are like me and enjoy eating cod, there are a few other areas, some not too popular, thank God, where you can fill up your sacks. I wouldn't say in a sudden surge, but fishing will be consistent throughout the day. If you will take a look at your charts you will see a buoy marked R"2A, which is at the southwest corner of Block Island. The locals call this The Hooter. Depths vary from forty to sixty feet; I prefer forty to forty-five foot depths. The cod you get here won't be large and some will even have that orange/reddish tint, but regardless of the color, the taste has always been just great. An added bonus—I have tied a flounder hook right to the snap on the sinker and have picked up a lot of flounder in this area, as well as the others I will mention.

When fishing this area and the others which are close to Block Island, you will find that the currents are extremely fast and will necessitate your moving from spot to spot, depending on the flow of these currents. In the area directly north of The Hooter, you will find buoy R"4 marked on the chart, and in this area you will find the same combination as above, with another added bonus, whiting seem to inhabit this area. Why this area only, I don't know, but evidently it has the type of bottom they are looking for. Again, using The Hooter as a reference point, east of it is buoy R"2, and the forty to forty-five range will produce cod, flounder and sea bass. Now you will understand why we always bring skimmers with us. Bait is the method most productive, but jigs have produced cod—and it did this year. You may be able to get your skimmers out of Montauk, but since we leave New Suffolk it has necessitated us bringing our own bait and chum, and I think you'd be the wiser by bringing your own. As I mentioned previously, currents in the forty-five foot depth are exceptionally strong and when they are near maximum velocity, we have found it is better to pull out into the eighty to ninety foot depths. The tides aren't nearly as strong and you are able to fish without using a cinder block for a sinker. For the most part, these are the better spots to fish around Block Island. We are experimenting on a few other locations, but as yet, I can't really say they are productive. Last year, because of the fog, we didn't try them, but perhaps this year we will have some further information to pass on.

Since most of you, I imagine, would be coming out of Montauk, I would suggest you plot your course so that you pass the area where the Sub Buoy is located. I have never caught cod in this area, but pollack definitely inhabit it. Even though you don't see boats, don't immediately discredit this area. Pollack travel in schools. Work it for about twenty minutes or so and then if you are unsuccessful, head on to the other fishing grounds off Block Island.

My final comment about fishing Block Island. With the exception of fishing Coxes Ledge during the summer, where else can you go in mid-May/early June, get a suntan and come home with cod and the mixed bag you'll catch at Block Island.

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GANGWAY, HERE I COME!

by Andy Regina

The triangularly-stacked pilings stand starkly silhouetted against the Long Island skyline, like Revolutionary muskets at some Continental Army Camp, forming a hollow pyramid. The base straddles a huge boulder, and atop the apex is affixed a sign that says, simply, "Danger Rock"; terse proof that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was on a tight budget again. They're the guys who are responsible for putting in the buoys and markers that warn boaters on our inshore waters of potential danger, as well as marking our channel routes, too. And the rocks they warned of are a permanent fixture in our end of the Sound: the western end.

Located several hundred yards northeast of Barker's Point, southwest of Execution Light, and almost due west of Sands Point, Gangway Rock is an early spring blackfish hotspot. Over the winter, the pilings had been knocked down—either by some errant tug or by the ice formed on the Sound; and our first trip in that vicinity was a complete surrise. Instead of the familiar stacked pilings, a lone, white buoy now warned of the rocks below, completely hidden at high tide, but barely inches below the surface.

There's nothing wrong with using buoys to pinpoint your fishing spots either, and we used this one to suit our purpose as well as those pilings had, until one foggy morning. Did you ever try to pick out a white object in dense fog? It's not so easy, let me tell you, although eventually we did blunder onto it. But at any rate, that white buoy has since been replaced with those wooden pilings once more, replete with terse sign and all. And now we feel more comforable, at home in familiar surroundings, so to speak.

This tight patch of blackfish structure makes getting out there early mandatory; if other boats beat you there, it would be extremely difficult to lay right—exactly on top of the most productive portion of that rock formation. Any blackfish aficianado worth his salt knows how extremely critical exact anchoring can be to successful blackfishing. These ornery critters are so particlar about their structure that quite often they will actually shoulder each other out of the way to stay atop one particular patch, while the rest of that reef or wreck remains ignored.

Tautoga onitis is a strange fish, anyway. Short, stocky, and dull-colored, this funny looking fish has a mouth like a chipmunk: thick, rubbery lips curling over chisel-like buckteeth. Usually splotched with dark blotches that give it a mottled look, this rock lover puts those incisors to good use, nipping off barnacles and mussels that grow on his favorite haunt, usually some old wreck or reef, or even some rocky patch on the bottom. And once he mouths those hard-shelled tidbits, he passes them back into his throat, where crushers called pharyngeal teeth are located. These crushers do exactly that: crush the hard shells, which are ejected as waste from the anal vent once the blackfish has swallowed the food into its stomach, where the nutrients are extracted by digestive juices.

Once again, the knowledgeable angler puts this knowledge to good use, and fishes for blackfish with hard-shelled baits. Prone to a host of mollusks and crustaceans, the blackfish lists crabs of all types high on his list of preferred foods, which also includes such other tasty crustaceans as lobster and shrimp; mollusks like clams of all types; scallops, oysters, and mussels, and seaworms of all types, as well as small bait fish. With a gourmet menu such as this to choose from, blackfish seekers have a wide range of baits with which to entice old white-chin to the hook. Even the lonely hermit crab, with its borrowed shell, is an excellent blackfish bait—if it is first forcibly evicted from its borrowed home before use as bait.

The most popular blackfish baits are probably soft shell clams (steamers), fiddler crabs, and green crabs, which are all stocked in good supply at coastal bait shops, or can be scrounged up at low tides by the more enterprising fishermen among us. The steamers must be dug up below the high water mark, as close to the water as possible it seems, thus making dead-low tide your best bet for scrounging. Fiddlers can be seen on mud flats at low tide, as they come out of their subterranean holes to scrounge for food themselves, and green crabs can be caught off jetties or even in rocky tidal pools, using techniques similar to catching blue claw crabs with killie rings. Lower some bait, either small bait fish, a piece of large fish, or some worms, into some nook or cranny; let it sit for awhile, and then raise your bait slowly. If that crab is felt hanging onto your bait, as they are wont to do, scoop it in with a net as it nears the surface.

This talk of hard-shelled baits should not lead you to believe that blackfish do not like such soft baits as clams and seaworms, by any means. On the contrary, these baits are ideal blackfish baits, and at times rack up terrific scores. It's just that by their very nature, many soft baits are mostly scorned by serious blackfishermen. The many bait-stealing pests like bergalls, seem to wait for unsuspecting fishermen to use seaworms or clams, then they pounce upon these baits, often en masse, not permitting any possibly interested blackfish to approach your hook until it is completely bare. Even steamers, which are used with the shell intact, but slightly cracked to allow natural juices to seep out, acting as a miniature chum slick to lure blacks to the source, are often devastated by bergalls, negating their efficiency as blackish bait at times.

Thus the hard-core tautog nut sticks with the hard stuff to pursue his pleasure, relying on the fact that hard shells and bodies will withstand bergall assaults longer, thereby giving any interested blackfish a shot at it, too. Fiddler crabs are usually used by first removing that oversized mandible that gives this bait its unique appearance and name, and then inserting the point of a Virginia hook into the cavity provided by that claw removal. Once inside the fiddler's body, the hook should be swiveled around so that the point and barb emerge from the crab's shell, and are exposed, to instantly hook biting blackfish.

Green crabs, and all other hard-shelled crabs, have all the legs removed at the first joint, the carapace (top shell) removed, and

are either cut in half or into quarters, according to the size of each individual crab. Like with fiddlers, your hook is first inserted into one of the body cavities created by the mass surgery of the claws and legs, and then swiveled through the body, then up and out, once more exposing that all-important point and barb for instant penetration into blackfish flesh and gristle.

Hooks used for blackfish are important also. Although you could get by with other patterns if you had to, the one hook created especially for blackfish is the Virginia pattern, which is forged, short-biting, and offset to reach behind those buck-teeth. And this hook does such an excellent job, that should you walk into any coastal tackle shop and ask for blackfish hooks, it is the one and only hook you will be given every time—mute testimony to its proven efficiency.

Of course, as in all other types of fishing, hook size should be in direct ratio to the fish being sought. Big hooks for big fish, such as those mahuska blacks often encountered on offshore wrecks, and smaller hooks for smaller fish, such as those found in bays. Bear in mind though, that whereas a small hook could catch a big fish, it is difficult to catch small fish on big hooks. We East Coast anglers always go off overgunned anyhow, using hooks that our West Coast brethren look at with amazement, as they are in the habit of using smaller sizes as a general rule.

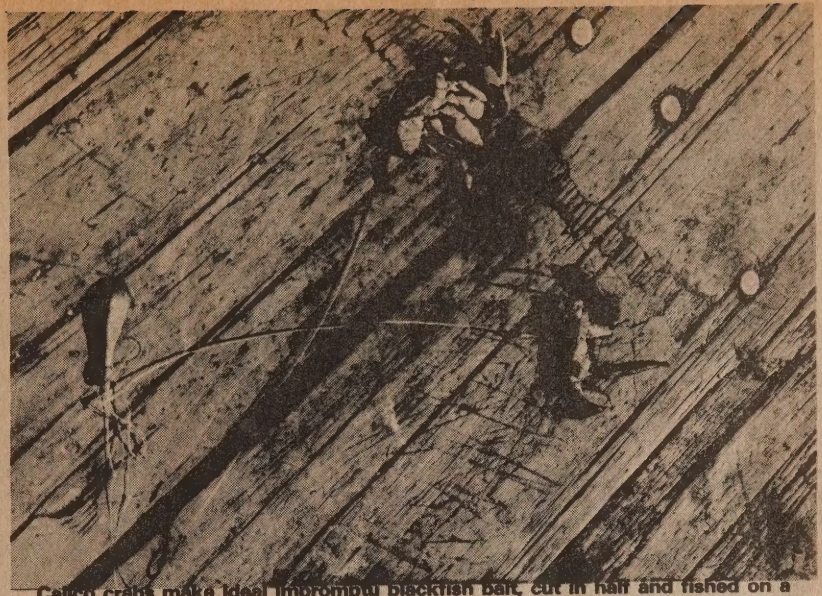
A good choice for offshore fishing might be sizes from four through two, while inshore work can be handled with hooks in sizes from five through eight. To alleviate confusion, remember that the larger size numbers denote smaller hook sizes, and vice-versa; thus, size eight is smaller than size five, which is smaller than size two—got it? And you can usually get by with two standard blackfish rigs: the high-low rig for offshore wreck fishing, and the regular bottom tandem rig for inshore fishing.

The high-low rig is just that—one hook tied into your line a couple of inches above a sinker, and a second hook tied in about fifteen inches above that which will eliminate most of the tangling of both hooks. Here a tip from experienced wreck fishermen is in order. If the situation gets too sticky, and you are continually getting stuck in the wreck some place, remove one of the hooks; this will eliminate that second hook from becoming snagged when some bull-dogging black tries to take you back into that wreck, or into some hole on that deep offshore reef.

Tandem tying conventional bottom fishing rigs is easy. Simply bend the snell of the first hook at the halfway mark, then slip it through the eye-loop of the second hook, allowing a couple of inches to project through the eye-loop. Then slip the second hook completely through that bent snell, drawing it up snugly until the entire second snell is within the bent first snell—eye-loop and all. Now pull that bent first snell snug against the second snell, and tie a simple overhand knot at the junction, which will not only keep both hooks spread separately apart, but from riding together while in use.

There's an old fisherman's saying that when dogwood is in bloom in the spring, the blackfish are biting. Don't you believe it! First of all, flowers and fish are moved by different temperatures. Flowers bloom when air temperatures warm enough to coax 'em out of their buds, and fish inhabit specific areas to feed when motivated by water temperatures. One has nothing to do with the other, although some coincidence must have sparked early thinking.

We find that when dogwood is in bloom in the Bronx, it's still too early for local blackfish, but after those beautiful white flowers have graced the landscape for a couple of weeks, then that time coincides with blackfish time in our end of the Sound. And that's where you'll find me, two weeks after the dogwood bloom—in a boat headed for Barker's Point, and shouting, "Gangway, here I come!"



Calico crabs make ideal impromptu blackfish bait, cut in half and fished on a Virginia hook.

A seven pound blackfish swung aboard by the leader, a feat not to be practiced by tyros. Use a landing net, it's a safer bet!

FISHING REPORTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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YELLOW PERCH

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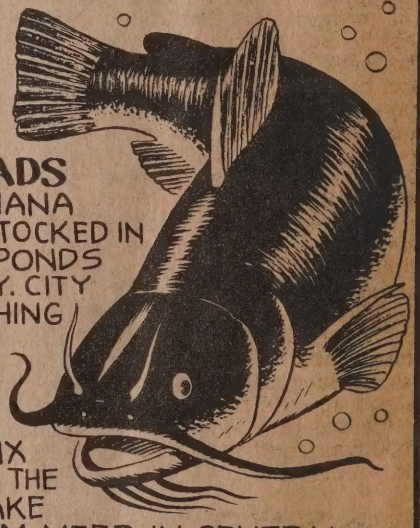

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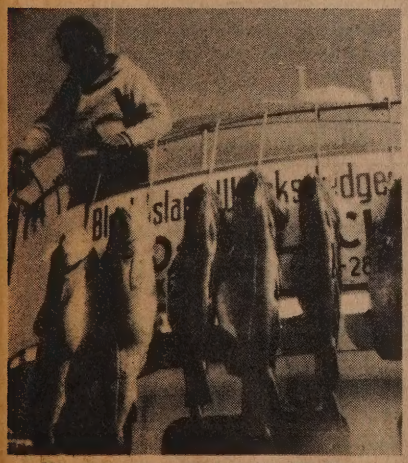
BEST FISHING DAYS FOR MAY WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW* AND *FULL* ARE MAY 1 - MAY 11 AND MAY 25 - JUNE 10.

WEAKFISH

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
CODFISH

Reporting on the codfishing at Montauk this past week can only be described as being a difficult task because of the nature of the erratic fishing. While there seems to be a large body of fish both off Montauk and south of Block Island, the boats are still having difficulty pinning down their location—probably due to the fact that the fish are feeding on sand eels and are moving around. As a result, one boat will find very good fishing while another boat a short distance away will wilt on the vine. Most boats have had difficulty in putting more than two or three days back-to-back. Naturally, our reports this week will reflect those having the most consistent scores.

Captain Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devil Fish** called to say that he only got out two days during the week, Monday and this Sunday and had very good catches on both days. What the catches lacked in quantity was more than made up for in the size and quality of the fish. On Monday, Warren said he fished south of Block Island with very good results, taking 16 cod to 40 lbs., with most of the fish going over thirty. He also bagged a dozen jumbo non-pusillanimous pollack in the 28 to 30 lb. class. Most of the cod were taken on bait while the pollack hit the diamond jigs. Sunday's fishing was also south of Block Island in addition to Southwest Ledge and the score was 18 cod up to 30 lbs., and four pollack up to 35 lbs.



Six hangers, cod over 30 lbs., line the rail of the new "Marlin V" that made its maiden voyage last week. See fishing report.

IN MEMORIAM:
CAPT. BOB JOSEPH

The staff of The L.I. Fisherman was greatly saddened to learn of the death this past week of *Capt. Bob Joseph* of Captree's Capt. Joseph Fleet. Bob, who was only 49 years of age, suffered a stroke last week which was followed a few days later by a heart attack which took him from us. Bobby will be missed by his fellow captains from Montauk to Sheepshead Bay, his many friends and his family.

Our sincerest condolences to Bobby's wife Penny and their two daughters.

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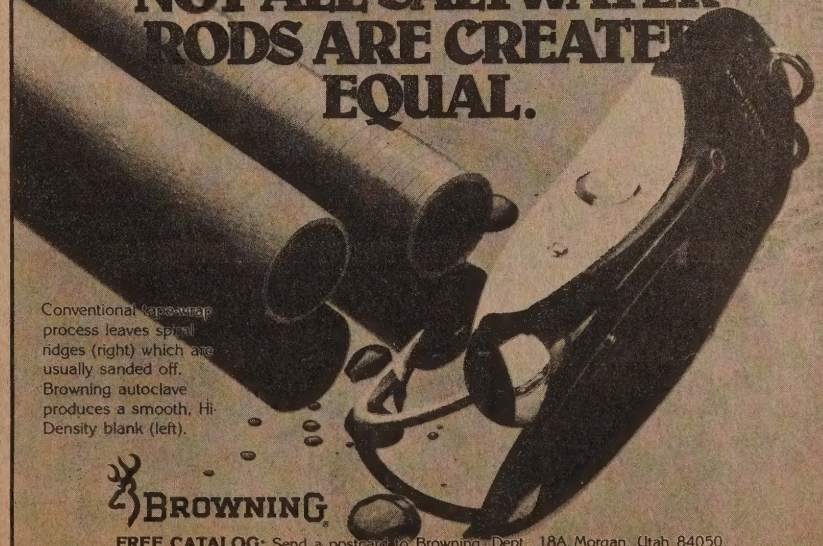

Conventional tape-wrap process leaves spiral ridges (right) which are usually sanded off. Browning autoclave produces a smooth, Hi-Density blank (left).

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Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that he has been finding consistently decent fishing as close by as twenty minutes east. On Saturday, he took three dozen cod there along with a nice pollack of thirty pounds. He repeated on Sunday with another three dozen cod, but no pollack. On Thursday, John said he fished south of the Island and took 45 cod for his charter, but they were smaller in size. Tuesday's catch was excellent with 400 lbs. of mixed sized cod and one pollack. John said that the fish aren't jumping on the jigs and you have to work at it seriously to produce.

Captain Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to report that he fished south of Block Island all week and his catches ranged from very good to excellent everyday. The action, however, slowed down on the weekend due to the heavy heave. Milton Barracks of New Jersey was high hook for the week with 25 cod on one trip.

Captain Paul Forsberg called to tell us that the **Viking StarShip** is back in town after its winter stay in Florida and is now sailing daily at 5AM to Coxes Ledge and Outer Block Island Banks. The **Viking Star** is now sailing at 6AM to the Block Island grounds, while the **Viking Starlite** will be taking large group charters and standing by for overflow from the other boats. Paul said that Saturday's fishing was poor south of Block Island, but on Sunday the boat sailed to Coxes Ledge and found the codfish waiting, which resulted in some fantastic catches. Al Kelly of New Jersey took the pool with a 45 lb. cod, but there was a 51 lber. taken that was not in the pool. Eleven hangers over 30 lbs. lined the rail when the boat pulled into the harbor.

On Friday, May 27 Captain Richard Rade with his two brothers-in-law, Paul Dietrick, Jr. and George Cook of Greenport, N.Y., returned to home port of Montauk with his new party boat, the **Marlin V.** The Marlin V was just built and completed in Morehead City, N.C. by Gillikin Craft Inc. (the same builders of the Marlin III & IV). Custom built of all wood, she stands at 65' long and 22' wide. The heated cabin is large and roomy with all tables and benches, and modern Ladies and Men's bathrooms. The Marlin V is powered with 2 V8 diesels at 750 h.p. The pilot house is equipped with all the latest in electronics to provide the best fishing possible. Also, a large sun deck for the bathing beauties is on topside! The Marlin V will provide all-day open boat fishing, special charters, half-day fishing for fluke, and night bluefishing. The new vessel will be operated by Captain Michael Steadman who is well known for his talent as a fine captain and fisherman. Sailing time will be 6:30 a.m. weekdays and 5:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday from

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Bob Schev, Tony Amodeo and Doc. Saren with part of the catch of 50 nice flounder up to 3 lbs. taken in Gardiner's Bay. The trio fish outgoing water aboard Tony's boat the Tony-Jo out of the "Gone Fishing Marina".

Salivar's Dock. The new boat made its maiden voyage on Saturday with a 33-man charter. They fished a wreck on the south side of Montauk and loaded up with 350 cod. Largest fish was 68 lbs. and the runner-up was 57 lbs. And if that wasn't enough, Richie said that they had another dozen cod that were over 50 lbs. The Captain said that most of the cod were in the 20 lb. class and they also had 15 pollack that ranged from 15-20 lbs. Richie said all of the fish were caught on bait but he doesn't think anyone tried jigging them. Sunday's action was also very good on the same wreck with a 40 man charter taking 300 cod and one pollack. Largest cod was 44 lbs., with an additional six over 30 lbs. and most of the fish averaging 12 lbs. The **Marlin IV** fished Southwest Ledge on Saturday and had a fair pick in the heave, and didn't sail on Sunday.

Captain Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called to say that on his first trip Thursday, James Smith and group had 83 cod from 8-10 lbs. (good eating size) fishing south of Block Island on bait and also on diamond jigs with a yellow tube tied in about 3½' above the jig. The weekend was off due to a big heave which was on.

Lou Rosada on his **Evalou II** reports he has been loading up on cod on diamond jigs off Block Island.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

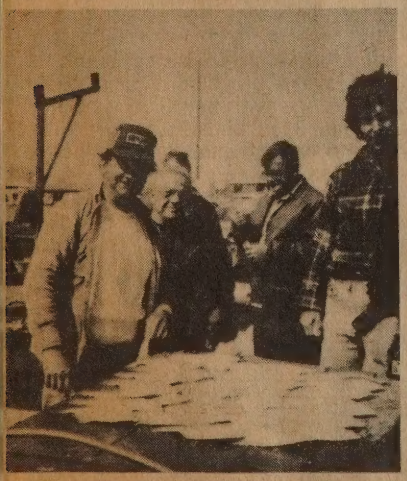
The Captain Clark Fleet tells of excellent flounder action this past week, fishing south Jamesport and Red Cedar Point in Peconic Bay. Fares are averaging 15-25 good sized flatties daily. On Saturday, a 30-man group of Hazeltine Corp. employees from Riverhead boated over 350 keeper flounder on the **Captain Clark II**. The **Captain Clark** fished the same area with steady action throughout the day. Fish have been biting on mussels and worms. They had some reports of weaks showing up and they expect to start on the weakfish in about 2 weeks time.

HAMPTON BAYS

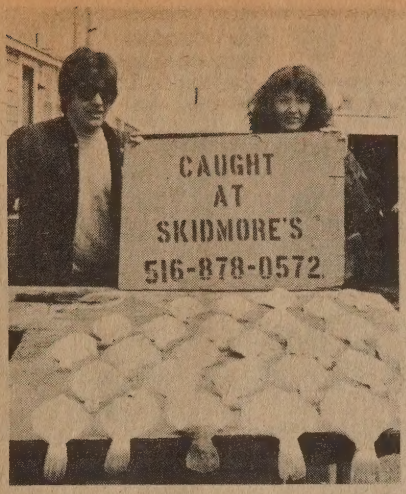
Jim at **Corr's Fishing Station** tells of flounder in Shinnecock Bay being excellent this past weekend. Rick Martini and Joe Ricardo both of Rosedale boated 74 keepers on Saturday. On Sunday Dick Woods and crew boated slightly over 100 keepers. All this was at the Heady Creek area on worms and mussels, with mussel chum on both tides. Small weakfish are in evidence in the Bay.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reports good flounder catches Thur-



Ron Ott with his catch of 32 flounder from ¼ to 1 lb. in weight taken south of buoy 45 on worms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy L&M Marine in East Moriches.



Fred and Carol Clark of Brooklyn with their catch of 30 flounder taken at buoy 43 on bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy Skidmore's Fishing Station.

day through Sunday. Charles and Tom Romano along with Pete Mastropolo of Queens scored with 93 keepers at buoys 43 and 44 on both tides Thursday and Friday. On the weekend, incoming was better. Frank Spapaccini and Mike Loria boated 79 flounder in the same area on Thursday. Don Mangeri and Aaron Kletcrib, along with Niko Anducic and Howard Korn boated 54 keepers fishing between buoys 42 and 43 on Saturday. Blood and sand worms on the hook and lots of mussel chum.

Silly Lily Fishing Station tells of good flounder fishing Sunday, with the best area being between buoys 42 and 43 on the north side of the channel. High hook boat was roughly 40 keepers on worms and clam with chumming a must.

Captain Joe Martinek of the charter boat **Rum 'n Coke** called to say he now has a new 42' diesel Sportfisherman and he will be making lots of overnight shark and canyon trips. See ad in next week's issue for details.

Mark at **Island Fishing Station** tells us that all his boats were out working at buoy 27 to the mouth of Forge River over the weekend. Boats averaged 35-40 keeper flounder from 1 to 1½ lbs. on bloodworms and mussel chum. One charter boat fished one mile south of the Whistle buoy off Moriches and in 1½ hours had nearly 400 lbs. of mackerel.

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** tells us that loads and loads of mackerel have moved into the area and catches were very good for those who went out after them. Fish were generally in 65' of water or thereabouts. Sunday's flounder was fair to good, boats averaging 30-35 keepers. Best areas were buoys 42, 43 and 45 in Moriches Bay on moving water on bloods and sands and heavy on the chum. Gardiner's Bay gave forth 40 big keeper flounder up to 3 lbs. 2 oz. for a

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four-man crew led by Stan Seneski. Eight of these fish ran over 2 lbs. Chummin heavily with mussel chum was a necessity with mussel and sand worm on the hook, all moving water.

B&B Tackle reports that the Moriches Anglers held their flounder derby on the weekend. There were 25 participants. First prize for the largest flattie of 1 lb. 14 oz. was taken by Mike Contessa. Second prize for most fish was taken by Willy Schulkin with 49 keepers.

GREAT SOUTH BAY ★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

StiriZ's Fishing Station tells of poor activity from Forge River to buoy 9, but that on the south side of buoy 17 flounder the size of fluke are being taken, though not in any numbers. This is where the channel meets the drain, where there is a series of deep holes and bars. Catches are averaging 30-40 keepers per boat on worm, mussel and a lot of chum. It's a mackerel leap job just outside the jetty at the Sea buoy in 70' of water, fish from 1½ to 2 lbs.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** reports good flounder activity all week on the Fire Island side. Flounder are in the entire area, thickest off Sunken Forest and Ocean Beach. Fish are ranging up to 1¾ lbs. on either running tide. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday some weakfish showed and a school of whales was sighted a half mile off Brown's River. These weaks were 1½ to 2½ lbs., with some large tiderunners taken off Ocean Beach on sand worms. Clyde and George Oakley had six weaks up to 9 lbs. on Sunday evening on shrimp jigs.

WEST SAYVILLE

Mike at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports flounder fishing good on the weekend. Jim Collari and Dad had 57 keepers to take back with them to Jersey on Sunday after they worked over buoys 28 and 29 with blood worms. Weakfish being taken at Ocean Beach on the bottom on drifted sand worms. Lots of small flounder around. Boat are averaging 15 keepers per.

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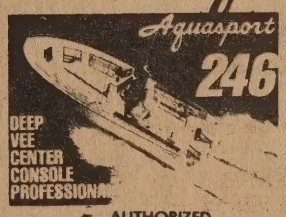

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EAST ISLIP

Wally of **Buoy Two Sport Shop** reported that Steve Testino single-handedly had 45 good sized flounder at buoy 2 on Saturday. Many of the fish ran from 1 to 1¼ lbs. and were taken on clams and clam chum. Wally went back to last Wednesday when he weighed in a pair of weakfish weighing 9¾ and 8 lbs. for a flounder fishermen using worm bait. These were among the first hook and line weakfish taken on the southshore this year.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells of good flounder catches off of Point O' Woods for Steve and Carol Brooks taking about 45 keepers to 1½ lbs. on Saturday. Producing areas Saturday were the flats and behind the hospital. Smokey weighed in two fish for Boyd Miller, 6½ and 8 lbs. These were taken between buoys 11 and 12 on strawberry double hooked jelly worms. Mackerel was very good Sunday in 40-75' of water. A gill net boat went down on Sunday morning. One man drowned and 2 pulled out of the water. The boat was a 30' wood hulled vessel.

Capt. Walter Specht of the **Casey Lee** reports flounder fishing is very good with fares averaging 10 to 20 nice keepers per man. High hook is usually around the 40 fish mark. Fishing is being done nearby on the Heckscher and Bay Shore flats. Fish are of mixed sizes and are taking both worms and clams. Flood tide seems to produce best. The captain says Come on down because the fishing is good and there are no crowds. Also, the **Casey Lee's** first afternoon weakfish trip is schedule for Friday, May 11th.

CAPTREE

The Captree Bait Station reports flounder catches from the Captree and Jones Beach piers has improved. Fish of mixed sizes up to 1½ lbs. are being taken on worm and clam baits on both tides.

The Speedy Fleet reports mackerel fishing is excellent, fishing just five miles southwest of the inlet. Sunday's afternoon trip was a slaughter. Flounder fishing has also been excellent with the best action between Point O'Woods and west channel on both tides for mixed fish on worm and clam baits.

Captain Bob Patafio of the charter boat **yankee** reported good flounder fishing on the weekend working the Babylon and Heckscher flats, worm and mussel on the hook. The boat is booked for a mackerel charter for next week.

Charter boat **Capt. Eddie B II** called to tell us of good flounder fishing Saturday and Sunday between w. Fire Island and the Bay

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Pam Warner of Long Beach displays the first blackfish of the season taken on a sandeel in Fire Island Inlet. The 6 pounder was weighed in at "The Store".

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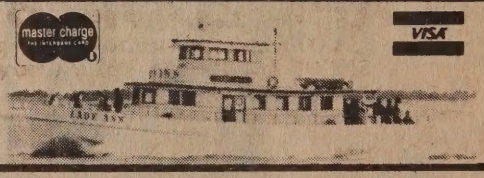

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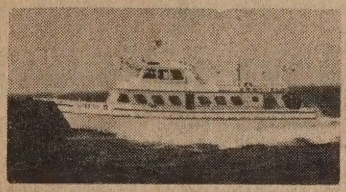

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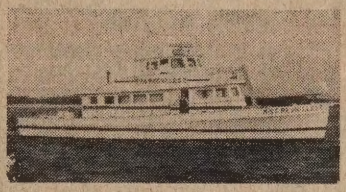

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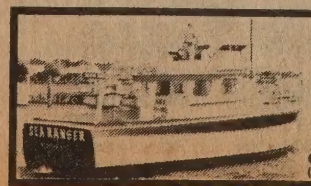

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Helen Michaels displays her pool winning pollack taken aboard the "Yankee II" on an offshore wreck trip.

Shore flats. Fish averaged 10-15 pe man, fish up to 2 lbs. Eddie sai they picked at the most of the da on worm and clam. Some weak were taken on rod and reel on Salt Dogs and Jelly worms off Ocea Bridge and also under the Captre drawbridge. Starting May 4 th **Joseph II** will be starting dail weakfishing at 3?30 pm.

The weekly Captree Pier flounde pool taken by Joseph Schaffer thi week with a 3 lb. flattie on the ope boat Reward.

The Capt. Scotty reports flounde were fair due to the unsettle conditions in the Bay. He has see weakfish swirling and will begi afternoon weakfish trips now catches of flounder from 1½ to lbs. are being caught by clammer using black and purple jelly worms Better size flounder are being take this week.

Captain Gordon Ronan of th nearly completed **Captree Queen** called Monday morning to tell u that the shipyard is finishing th final painting Monday and Tuesday Coast Guard sea trials are to be hel on Wednesday and the boat shoul arrive at Captree on Friday, May in time to make the maiden voyag for Saturday, May 5. Captain Roma urges that you call him Friday nigh to make sure everything is ready t roll Saturday morning.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Lad Ann** says that flounder fishing ha been excellent since Tuesday. O Tuesday, 19 members of the Jo Jefferson Club of New Jerse managed 227 keeper flounder. Th past Sunday members of the Hom Insurance Company had well ov 400 keeper flounder. All of th fishing was done in West Chann and on the Bay Shore flats. Clam and worms both produce fish. Ca Neil also mentioned that they ha taken a few sun dials, a sure sig

hat the water is warming. He also knew of a fluke taken by flounder isherman in the inlet area.

The open boat **Captain Litwin** reports that flounder fishing has not been what it should be but fares still average 10 to 12 fish per man. High hook on Sunday had 20 good sized keeper flounder. Again, worms and clams produce best.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports flounder action has increased a bit up to 5-10 keepers per angler, fishing both north and south of the store off the piers on worm and clam baits. Best catches have been at the change of tide. A few weaks off Ocean Beach. Mackerel are being taken in fair numbers now just around the area of the Whistler, as evidenced by a catch made there Sunday by Bud Miller.

BABYLON

Charter boat **Sea Bird** called to tell us he has started sailing for the season and he is starting a new inshore rate of $200 for 15 passengers.

Augie's Bait and Tackle tells of the Babylon Tuna Club contest on the weekend. First place went to Art Orlandi with a 2 lb. flounder; 2nd place to Dick Orlandi with a 1 lb. 9 oz. flounder; 3rd place - Pete Rhein, 1 lb. 8 oz. fish. Pete tied for 3rd place with Ed Torgeldson. All boats that went out for flounder had plenty. 50 to 60 keepers per boat were common. Other fish ran from 1 lb. to 1 lb. 5 oz. Fish were found at the Babylon Flats, Snake Hill channel, off the hospital, off the pool and in front of the hangar. A few blacks were taken on flounder rigs and lots of eels were caught as they are coming out of the mud now. One flounder pounder caught 50 eels. Anglers were mohawking mackerel this Monday morning off the Gilgo tower in 55 to 70' of water and also six miles off the beach so there are loads of macks around.

Babylon Fishing Station tells us it was a good weekend for flounder pounders, catches best south of the hospital on the flats on the south side of the Bay. Numbers were 20-60 per skiffs on bloods and a churned bottom. Catches held good even with the strong winds. John Balman had a 2 lb. 6 oz. flounder. Debby Gregornic bagged a 2½ lb. flattie, pretty good for a 9-yr.-old girl. A 5 lb. 8 oz. weakfish hit the pink Salty Dog bumped along the bottom by 10 year old Mike Moreti.

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COPIAGUE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reports flounder still a good item in the State Channel west of the Babylon Cut, Four Corners , off the Hospital and in Bass Creek. Worms and dyed clam are working well, along with clam chum. Mackerel in 60' of water south of Fire Island inlet.

SEAFORD

Big Eddie at **Shore Isle Marina** tells of a 2 lb. 3 oz. flounder taken at the marina's weekend flounder tournament by George Mills, who took 1st place. Jim Mills copped 2nd prize with a 1 lb. 10 oz. fish. Both are from Seaford. Bob Meier and dad, George had 17 flounder averaging 1 lb. 2 oz. taken on worm, clam and mussel chum at the bulkhead drain and at Squaw Island. 56 out of 58 entrants had fish and though there was no bonanza, everyone caught.

Ted at **Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station** called to say that most fishermen averaged 10-20 flounder per man this past week. Fish seem to be starting to move and larger catches of fish should occur over the next 3 weeks. Irv Rose and friend had 36 keepers Saturday, up to 1¾ lbs. on worms, mussels and clam fishing Four Corners and Massqpequa Cove.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports flounder still a pretty good item, best areas being Squaw Island, West Island, Florence Beach, Four Corners and Massapequa Cove. Catches have slowed down a bit due to unsettled bottom. Some 9 and 10 lbs. weaks have been picked on sand worms off Ocean Beach, according to reliable sources, and small tommy cod have been taken in Massqpequa Cove.

Pop's Fishing Station reports that

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fishermen this weekend were catching flounder in reduced numbers and smaller in size than previous weeks. The storm may have caused this dropoff. However, Lous Vergilio and Mr. Nobler caught 34 keeper flounder up to 2½ lbs. off Massapequa Park. A Mr. and Mrs. Thomas boated 35 keepers . These two parties consistently catch.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Tackle Center reports sharpshoot Sam Blasi of East Bay Anglers with one pal took 44 good keepers from waters surrounding Gardiner's Island , fish from 1 lb. 12 oz. to 2 lbs. 12 oz., on Wednesday. Mussels on the hook and in the pot on an all-day pick. Flounder were poor locally on the weekend due to the unsettled bottom and strong mackerel catches were made just a little ways off the inlet.

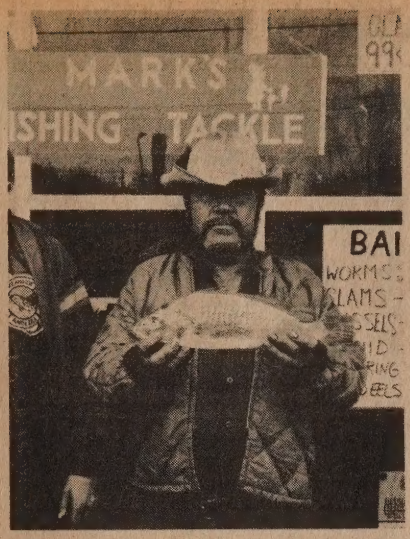
MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports boats that got out of a wicked inlet on the weekend scored well on mackerel fishing around Cholera in 75' of water roughly 7 miles off the beach. Blackfish were caught Friday in the 4-5 lb. range at the 3rd Meadowbrook Bridge on fiddlers and green crabs at the slack.

Captain Joe Long of the charter boat **Nite Owl** called happily to tell us that Saturday's codfish charter for Vic Lanzon of New Hyde Park, Phil Groso, Roy Sweeney, Dave Gretch, Al Gosnay, and Mike Festa was a big success. The party caught 53 cod up to 44 lbs. The next 3 largest were 42, 39 and 37 lbs., all on a secret offshore wreck. This was all on clam bait. In addition, two 40 lb. pollack and a few 25 lb. pollack were decked. The average weight of the other cod was in the 18-20 lb. range. Joe says sea was calm, except for swells. They fished the wreck for 5 solid hours and had nearly 5,000 lbs. of fish. Another big day for Joe "Tuna" Long, wreck fishing specialist.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Marina tells of fair flounder action in Middle and Baldwin Bays on mussels. Mackerel fishing picked up Sunday. Bob Lamonsoff and crew loaded up on macks in 80' of water fishing southeast of Jones Inlet. Mike Sullivan and crew also loaded up in the same area.



Doc McPherson of Oceanside displays a 2¾ lb. croaker taken on a bloodworm off of Baldwin Park. Photo courtesy of Mark's Bait & Tackle.

FISH TALK
(Continued from page 17.)

recognize that sport fishing is a viable activity and that it is an economic force as well. There is too much of a tendency to think of fishing economics purely in terms of commercial fishing efforts, yet this is not so. We first noticed this about seven years ago when we responded to a document from the U.S. Department of Commerce about fish resources and fishing. We studied a master plan and saw immediately that one of its great weaknesses was that it did not provide equal time for sport fishing. We responded that we felt that this was so and yet, present support for the commercial effort seems to state very clearly that the Government is more interested in commercial fishing than in sport fishing. We had better change this attitude or there will be hell to pay! The sport fishermen is no longer the meek mouse to be turned loose in the barn with a pat on the head. The bluefish hearings proved that we can be tigers when we are informed and each year that goes by we are MORE informed.

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FREEPORT

The Captain Hall reports doing a very good job on mackerel, fares jogging in anywhere from half to full bags of big Bostons, fishing only about 5 miles out of the inlet. Fish are up to 2 lbs. and the boat whaled away at them both Saturday and Sunday. Captain Hall says he will be fishing mackerel 7AM daily and that the run is here now, don't wait.

Captain Sy Carlin of the charter boat **Blue Fin II** called to say flounder fishing Sunday morning was fair to the tune of 25 big flounder, but then shot outside and in 1½ hours did a brisk job on mackerel close by, just north of the new NB buoy, 8 miles off the beach. Excellent mackerel action says Capt. Sy and that fish are spread out from Debs Inlet to F.I.

The Star Stream II reports excellnt catches of mackerek all this past week and weekend fishing east/south east of inlet, just a short ride from the jetty. A sack of macks is no problem and fish are up to 2 lbs.

The Captain Al reports it has been a blitz on the mackerel, catches averaging 85-100 big Bostons per man right off the Jones Beach tower.

Lou at **Charvin Fishing Station** tells us the inlet was very hazardous Saturday, but the mackerel bit for those who got out. On Sunday, all the open and charter boats that fish mackerel found them, both to the southwest and southeast. There is a massive body of mackerel. Flounder catches were way off for the private boats that stopped by the station at the foot of Woodcleft Canal. Blackfish at the Meadowbrook bridge on fiddlers and crabs and a few weaks on sand worms off Ocean Beach.

Charter Boat **Captain Darby** asked us to let you know he is now chartering 7 days a week, whereas before he was chartering weekends only.

The Freeport Boatmen's Association boats enjoyed good mackerel catches despise the big heave on Saturday. The Nite Owl II's charter brought back barrels of mackerel. IBM took 4 boats and are still feeding macks into the computers. Boats that fished flounder, such as the Acme II, on Sunday did all right on the flood between poles 17 and 19 in Reynolds Channel.

Anthony's Fishing Station on Tuesday had 2 of their rentals return from the Merrick Bay Golf Course area with 61 and 78 keeper flounder respectively taken on clam, mussel and bloodworm. The weekend saw catches reduced with 10 being high hook.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Marina reports a lot of flounder at buoy 17, Coast Guard Station, and up on the flats. However most of the fish are small as the larger fish seem to be moving towards the inlet. Worms and mussels both produce fish. Andy knew that plenty of mackerel were taken in 40 to 60 feet of water south of Jones Beach tower over the weekend. These are the finest kind of Bostons running up to 3 lbs. On Friday one surfcaster had a 10 lb. striper on sandworms at Pt. Lookout. Reports of 2 bass taken at Atlantic Beach also on Friday reached Andy as well.

Ed of **Ed's Fishing Station** reports very good flounder fishing at buoy 17. Mary Trimarco sampled this area and returned with 20 flounder up to 2½ lbs. over the weekend. Blackfishing was very good during the week with some catches running as high as 50 fish per boat. This died over the weekend however. Joe Lusiri and his father also fished buoy 17 over the weekend and had 90 flounder of mixed sizes which were taken on worms and lots of mussel chum. Ed knew of a ½ dozen weakfish taken by flounder fishemen in the Middle Bay but expects it will be another week or two before the yellowfins take hold.

ISLAND PARK

The Commodore reports they had some flounder Saturday in Hog Channel. Bill Strobel ended up with 28 keepers. Average catch was 15-18 keepers a man and lots of small fish were caught as well. On Sunday there were a ton of private boats out and Captain Klem fished the Oyster Beds in Reynolds Channel to the tune of 80 good keepers. No leap job but they picked away, 6-8 keepers per man. The storm had dirtied up the water. Buoy 9 Reynolds Channel produced and also fish in Garrett' Lead.

Charlie of **Beckmann's Tackle** reported very good mackerel fishing outside the inlet. These are big Bostons and are running 2 and 3 lbs. Lots of fun on light tackle. On Thursday Charlie weighed in his first weakfish, an 8¾ pounder taken on a jelly worm by Ed Thompson in Haunts Creek. Flounder fishing has slowed somewhat but blackfishing is getting underway at the bridges. Charlie hopes to have fiddlers in stock for this coming weekend.

LONG BEACH

Captain Bruce of the **Nyar** called to say he is still flounder fishing for

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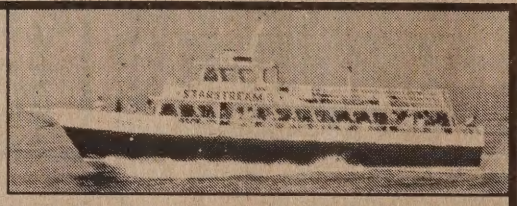

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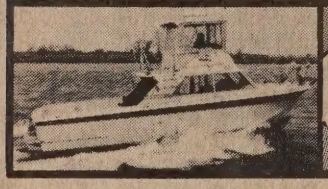

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his charters averaging 10-20 keepers per man. The big fish of the day Sunday was a 2 plus pounder. Flounder slowed, so he ran outside and picked away at whiting and ling for about 20 additional fish per man-1-3 lbers. Eighty percent of the catch was ling.

Long Beach Sports Marina reported flounder fishing is pretty good although the majority of the fish are on the small side. Worms, clams, and mussel chum have been producing fish with Duck Point being one of the more worthwhile spots.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin of **Hennings Fishing Station** reports good flounder fishing at the Cedarhurst Yacht Club and Buoy 5 in Reynold's Channel. One rental boat using worms and mussel chum returned with over 50 keeper flounder from in front of the Yacht Club. Sy reminded that a moving tide produces the best action. Plenty of mackerel running 2 to 3 lbs. outside the inlet and blackfish starting at the bridges.

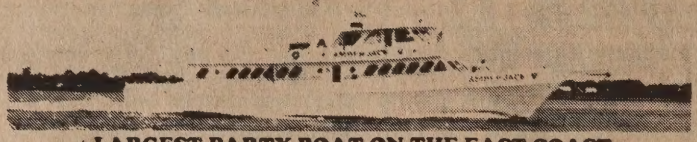
Skippy's Tackle Shop reports mackerel are the only good news this weekend he can tell us about, with Billy Glen and Jean Atkins and his two sons boating 800 plus lbs. of mackerel, fishing the NC buoy, with a lot of chum in 70-90' of water. Flounder have been off due to super tides. Red Thompson bagged an 8½ lb. weak fishing the Moses Bridge area with jelly worms.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reports that on Friday Angelo Santiago and Thomas Escobar of the Bronx returned with 3 small stripers, some eels, and a mess of flounder taken on tape and sandworms on an outgoing tide. The pair did not divulge the whereabouts of their action. Flounder fishing has been good for fish up to 1¼ lbs. on sandworms and mussels. Also a

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

★NEW AMBERJACK V★



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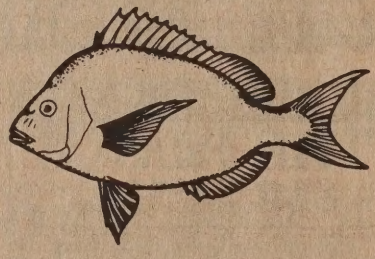

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couple of blacks have been taken at local bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Neil at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** reports loads of mackerel for the Sheepshead Bay fleet which have been working schools off Jones Beach. Flounder boats are working areas off the Jetty, In Jamaica Bay, with sand worms best, along with mussel, both tides. Blackfish are being caught at Seabright on wrecks on fiddlers and green crab.

The Atomic II reports sensational mackerel fishing at the Mud Hole. Fares are filling ½ to 2 burlap bags with Bostons running up to 2 lbs.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** told of witnessing lots of flounder activity at Penny's Beach over the weekend. A few bass were taken along with the flounder. Al Leonardi reported to Stan that he landed 28 flounder, 5 bass, 5 eels, and a load of tom cod at Pier 17. Lenny knew that Great Kills Park has been producing bass up to 9 lbs. on incoming water on worms and Rebels. Most of the fish are under 4 lbs. and many are shorts. Blackfish running 2 to 3 lbs. are being taken off the jetty at Great Kills Park also. Still flounder with ling mixed in inside Princess Bay.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

AP White Bait Shop spoke of lots of flounder at Doering Harbor, East Marion, Long Beach, and Aquebonack. The later spot seems to be producing outsized flounder. Lots of mackerel at Hay Beach and the Greenport breakwater. Capt. Roddy DeLisile of the **Prowler** found a 3 lb. 10 oz. flounder for a Mr. McNinerney over the weekend. Sandworms with lots of mussel chum combined with a flood tide have been producing the best catches. A weakfish was also reportedly taken by a mackerel fisherman on Saturday.

SOUTHOLD

Ace of the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports lots of mackerel running up to 3 lbs. at Greenport breakwater, Jessups, Buoy 18, and the Long Beach light. Catches run anywhere from 150 to 200 Bostons per boat. Flounder fishing is still good at the Windmills off of East Marion, Long Beach, Orient State Park, and Cedar Beach. Fish are running up to 2½ lbs. and are being taken on both sandworms and mussels with mussel chum the surest way to a good catch. Ace also reported their first weakfish, a 3 pounder from Jessups and their first porgie a 2¼ pounder taken over the weekend.

Dan Cemodeo and Rodger Rosso Mangno with 45 flounder averaging a pound in weight taken in Great Peconic Bay on mussel bait. The pair left from "Capt. Marty't Fishing Station" in New Suffolk.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station told us that there are lots of mackerel at Nassau Point and the Rose Grove. Blackfish at both Nassau Point and the South Race. Marty rated the flounder fishing fair but the average size is around 1½ lbs.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren of **Warren's Bait & Tackle** reports flounder fishing is good with the fish running 1½ to 2 lbs. on the average. Most consistent spot in recent days seems to be the Rose Grove. Worms and mussels produce steady action. Warren knew that weakfish have begun moving through the Shinnecock Canal and a number of 2 to 3 pounders were taken on small rubber shrimp. Plenty of macks around for those who want them.

NOYAC

The Noyac Marina reports that Saturday and Sunday saw excellent catches of both flounder and mackerel. On Saturday some members of the Skunked Again Fishing Club loaded up on the macks and flatties. The flounders are running 1¼ to 2 lbs. with the best fishing found at buoy 16, Long Beach, and between the Monastery and the "Pink House". Over the weekend Frank Rucci returned with a nice catch of flounder and mackerel but was more excited about the nice weakfish he dropped at the boat. The fish took a jig meant for a mackerel.

Helen asked us to make fishermen aware that the directions given in the article "Noyac Bay Flounders" in issue 17 are incorrect. The following corrections should be noted: Go 2 miles to Noyac Rd. turn right (not left). Also wherever Lazy Pt. Rd. is mentioned substitute Pine Neck Ave. The Fisherman and Noyac Marina both apologize for any inconvenience caused by the original directions.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait and Tackle tells of weakfish in Shinnecock Canal from 1½ to 6 lbs. when the locks are closed on touts and Salty Dogs, light colors during the day and dark colors in the evening. Jim Evans caught them in the 1½-2 lb. range Sunday. Bernard Sadowski of Southampton was catching 3 lbers. on Friday. Joe Bernagozzi of Noyac coxed a 3 bl. 8 oz. porgy out of Shinnecock Canal on six pound test. Ed Pribil had 27 flounderof a pound and over from Shinnecock Bay, buoy 18 on worms. Ned Johnson, age 12, had flounder from 3/3 to 1 lb. in the Bay on worms. Snows at Gardiner's on mussels and mackerel in Peconic.

Bob Bile displays some spring flounder taken near the Wantagh Bridge on incoming water. Bob used mussels for bait and chummed with clam. Subscriber photo.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

ROCKY POINT

Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** was enthused about the great fishing of this past weekend. Plenty of mackerel at buoy 11. Good flounder fishing continues particularly at Crane's Neck. These fish average 1 to 2 lbs. and are responding to sandworms and mussel chum. Tom Brady and friends aboard the **Carry On** had a fine catch of early season blackfish at Haggerman's Landing on the weekend. Fish ran from 5 to 10 lbs. and all were taken on sandworm bait. Stan also had news of 4 stripers from 6 to 8 lbs. taken in a set by a gillnetter off of Wading River. Nick Christ fished Haggerman's Landing from the beach on Saturday and had a good mixed catch of flounder up to 2 lbs., blacks to 4 lbs., and a number of short stripers. These were all taken on sandworms near the top of the tide.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station told us that there are loads of mackerel at buoy 11 for boatmen and that casters take fish from Sound beachs during the early morning hours. Good flounder fishing out in the Sound from Old Field to Miller Place. Fish are running from 1 to 2½ lbs. taking sandworms and mussels.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports flounder fishing is very good both inside the harbor and out in the sound at Crane's Neck. Sandworms with plenty of mussel chum is the ticket to these big sound flounders. Plenty of mackerel at buoy 11 and a few blackfish beginning to show in the area.

Randy Giresi, George Finneran, and John Finneran show off a nice catch of flounder taken at the Mansion recently. Photo courtesy "OK Bait Shop".

Bob of **OK Bait & Tackle** told us that fishing for mackerel and flounder over the weekend was "real good". On Saturday Angelo Serrone and Rodger Olsen returned with 135 flounder some of which went over the 2 lb. mark. Fish were taken at Crane's Neck on worms and mussels. Also on Saturday 2 local youngsters, John Koliner and Randy Girese had 450 lbs. of mackerel fishing in 75 feet of water east of the river mouth. On Sunday Dom Rinaldi and Angleo Molinaro both of Centereach returned in a rental boat with 105 flounder taken on sandworms and clam belly chum inside the river.

KINGS PARK

Ski and Sea tells us that Artie West had 90 mackerel which he took 1½ miles off Crane's Neck on Sunday. Buddies Steve Stathis and Bill Brody were aboard. All taken on diamond jigs at the bottom of mackerel trees on high water.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reports mackerel are all over the sound. Tom mentioned

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★ GREENPORT ★

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FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS (Beware of imitations). Flounders are committing suicide on this widely used 3-hook rig, especially designed for the "Meat Fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangling of hooks at a minimum. Handmade, finest material. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Turnpike, Merrick, NY. 11566.

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buoy 11 as one spot where anglers gathered over the weekend. A couple of small weaks taken at the power plant in recent days and flounder fishing continues good with bigger fish out in the sound and smaller fish inside the harbor.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** told us of a fine catch of flounder made on Saturday by Rob, Bill, and James Schneider. The trio had 131 keeper flounder weighing from ¾ to 2 lbs. on worms and mussels. They fished Callahans. On Sunday Mike Bentivegina, Charlie Erthal and Warren McDougal had 116 flounder from ¾ up to 2 lbs. at Crane's Neck before finishing the day with 62 mackerel taken off of Eaton's Neck. George had a report of a 5 lb. weakfish taken at buoy 13 on a mackerel jig.

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle told us that Frank and Mary Marfala returned with a garbage pail of mackerel up to 2 lbs. taken a half mile off of Sunken Meadow. Also this past weekend, Stan Rummel and his son had 85 flounder and 3 tom cod at Center Island Reef on clam bait. Flounder fishing in the sound off of Callahans and Asharoken continues very good for good sized flatties. Mackerel are all over the sound and one customer took 2 small weakfish in Huntington Bay while flounder fishing on Sunday. The big news in this area was the 37 lb. striper taken by John Munno, Jr. on a 4½" mackerel finished Rebel and 8 lb. test from the beach at the Lloyd's Neck Causeway.

Captain Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say the boat is ready and will begin sailing for the season this Saturday, May 5. Captain Don will be trying to set a spiritual tone as his theme for the season. See ad and call for details.

COLD SPRING Hbr.

Mark of **Salty's Bait & Tackle** told of Dick Mackay and his son Brien who had a nice catch of flounder up to a lb. on worms inside Oyster Bay Harbor. Plenty of tom cod also in the harbor taking worm and clam bait. George Fry had 50 Boston mackerel over the weekend out of the Stamford Buoy. Some blackfish at Center Island Reef on sandworms. Mark said that he should have fiddlers by this coming weekend. He also had unconfirmed reports of a few bass taken on the west side of the harobr on small swimming plugs by a few of the locals.

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NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

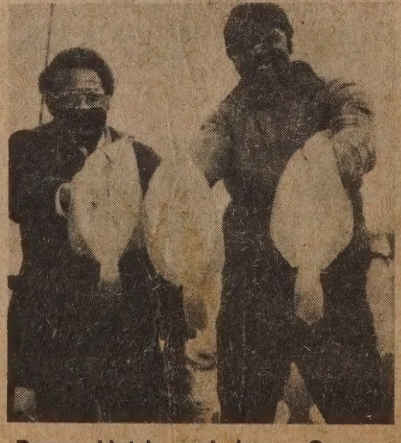
GLEN COVE

Captain Joe of the **Lady Lil II** called to say that Saturday's flounder fishing was great in the morning, fishing Fox Point. One couple walked off the boat with 7 lbs. of fillet. Sunday's pool went to Stan Kurlanchik of Bayside with a 2 lb. 1 oz. fish. Clam bait and mussel chum was the ticket. The water was loaded with sand eels and Joe says he looks forward to an excellent mackerel season coming up shortly. He will be fishing mackerel possibly even before this weekend.

CITY ISLAND

The Ebb Tide reports flounder action was good Saturday. On Sunday a few mackerel were caught also. Starting by the time you read this report, the boat will have switched over to mackerel on a daily basis. By all signs, it looks like a good strong run of mackerel coming up.

Jack's Bait & Tackle told us of lots of flounder in East Chester Bay and at Orchard Beach. Fish are taken on both worms and clams. Lots of short stripers at Turtle Cove and Little Neck Bay on worms and small plugs such as the Rebel and Redfin. A few blacks have started at the City Island Bridge and tautogs being taken by flounder fishermen on open boats have become a daily occurence.



Ponce Hatch and Isaac Cooper show off some of the flounders they caught on the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide II".

Pass It On...

NOTICE OF VIOLATION ISSUED FOR LARGE LANDINGS IN THE STATE OF MAINE

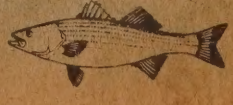
Dr. Robert W. Hanks, Acting Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, today announced that civil penalties totaling $17,500 have been proposed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration against Harry M. Ross, Master of the fishing vessel **Karma**. The vessel is home-ported in Portland, Maine.

The penalties are for violations of regulations protecting cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The regulations implement a Fishery Management Plan prepared by the New England Fishery Management Council.

The violations relate to a fishing trip in August, 1978, when the **Karma** landed nearly 80,000 lbs. of haddock. The allowable limit at the time was 22,500 lbs.

"A number of fishermen thought they had found loopholes in the regulations," said Hanks. "This case indicates our intent to watch the situation closely and ensure that the regulations are complied with.

"For a long time we found it hard to believe that fishermen were catching tremendous amounts of cod and haddock inside the three-mile limit as they were claiming. The evidence shows that this was certainly not the case for these violations."

The allegations in the Notice of Violation are that the vessel unlawfully landed excess haddock and that he failed to maintain an accurate log of fishing operations. The case was made by Special Agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service working with vessel personnel of the United States Coast Guard, and involved extensive at-sea surveillance. "Without the assistance of the Coast Guard we could not have made the case," said Hanks.

The maximum penalties for each of the violations is $25,000. If the violations are proved, the Federal fishing license of the **Karma** might also be suspended or revoked. There are forty-five days to respond to the allegations. After that, if NOAA decides to continue with the prosecution, it will issue a Notice of Assessment. After receiving the second Notice, there will be another forty-five days to request an administrative hearing to review charges. The hearing would be before an Administrative law judge.